FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

12 MARCH 1986

French Hostages in Lebanon

The Iranian agency IRNA accused France of preparing a military response to the taking of French hostages in Lebanon, claiming that French commandos are preparing for "an orgy of kidnapping" of Lebanese Hizballah officials. In Beirut, Shi‘ite cleric Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah called for the release of the 4-man French television crew kidnapped 8 March, according to AFP, which described Fadlallah as Hizballah's "spiritual figurehead." As for the French diplomatic effort, Beirut's *AL-NAHAR* reported that France has authorized its envoys to agree to a deal involving the following conditions for the hostages' release: a French pledge to reduce the prison terms of the group that attempted to assassinate former Iranian Prime Minister Shahpur Bakhtiar in Paris; safeguards from Iraq concerning the lives of two Iraqi dissidents recently extradited from Paris to Baghdad; Syrian guarantees that France will honor its obligations if the hostages are released.

Israel

Tabah Talks — The Egyptian delegation has brought "positive answers" on the issue of normalization of relations, ambassador to Egypt Moshe Sason stated in remarks reported by IDF radio following the resumption of the Tabah talks in Herzliyya 12 March.

Policy on Syria — Commenting on Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's current "extremism," Prime Minister Shim‘on Peres stressed that Israel's response to threats will be to "fight back," adding that "our tone may be restrained but our might is great," Jerusalem radio reported. Peres also revealed that diplomatic efforts are underway, through France and the United States, to get Syria to permit its 4,000 Jews to emigrate, according to the radio.

Iran-Iraq War

An Iranian military communique cited by IRNA announced that Iranian planes raided an Iraqi command headquarters deep inside southern Iraq 12 March. Iraqi warplanes raided Khark Island the previous day, according to an Iraqi communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. As for aircraft losses, an Iraqi spokesman cited by INA announced that Iraqi air defenses downed an Iranian F-4 over the Al-Faw area 11 March, while an Iranian communique reported by IRNA stated that an Iraqi helicopter was shot down in the same area.

Meanwhile, the Kuwaiti prime minister inspected military positions in Bubiyan Island and other north eastern border points, KUNA disclosed. In another development, Kuwait reminded Iran of its responsibility for any possible damage to the Kuwaiti Embassy in Tehran, KUNA reported, noting that this followed demonstrations outside the embassy by Iranian students and trade unionists shouting "unjust slogans" criticizing Kuwait and other Arab Gulf states.

Iranian Relations With Romania

The Romanian foreign minister met with President ‘Ali Khamene'i in Tehran 11 March, Tehran radio reported, adding that the minister gave Khamene'i a letter from Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu emphasizing the possibility of expanding bilateral cooperation. Commenting on the Romanian delegation's visit, Foreign Minister ‘Ali Akbar Velayati told the radio that there is "a considerable degree of agreement" between the two countries on foreign relations issues.

Sudan

The clandestine Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) reported an appeal by the SPLA deputy leader for all civilians to evacuate towns in the war zone. He said the SPLA will protect civilians who flee to the rural areas, but warned that anyone who cooperates with the Khartoum regime will be dealt with according to the laws of "revolutionary struggle."

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King Husayn Speech Opens APU Conference

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[Speech by King Husayn opening fourth Arab Parliamentary Union conference in the Jordanian Parliament building, Amman — live]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Brother speakers and members of Arab parliamentary delegations, ladies and gentlemen: I send to you my heartfelt Arab greetings and welcome you to Amman in my own name and on behalf of the Jordanian Government and people. And through you, the representatives of the Arab peoples, I greet the rest of the Arab brothers in all their countries and regions irrespective of their religions and persuasions.

I am pleased to address your fourth Arab parliamentary conference, in which you shoulder the nation's issues and burdens. In the Arab Parliamentary Union, you are our nation's living conscience and the true protectors of the nation's interests and aspirations.

Brothers and sisters, your fourth conference is being held while the Arab nation is passing through a genuine crisis which can no longer be denied, ignored, or belittled. We have even reached the extent of fearing that the coming generations will become familiar with this crisis and tolerate and coexist with it. This crisis is represented in the absence of a united Arab will, a united Arab vision, and united Arab action agaisnt the threats that surround our homeland and the challenges that threaten our Arab nation and its national identity. It is the crisis of fragmentation and the trend toward deviating from the group and remaining divided within various regional frameworks in terms of security, politics, and economy.

This fact cannot be expunged by phrases of courtesy which we tell one another. This fact cannot be hidden by glittering pan-Arab slogans which fill our newspapers and statements, nor obliterated by wishful thinking. If some try to turn their eyes from it, conscience cannot but feel it because it confronts this conscience every day. Mind must realize it because it challenges it with everyday occurence. This fact has emptied Arab solidarity of its content, exposed our dignity to insult and contempt, and made our lands spoils for the rapacious and an arena for the tampering ones who are aware of it, who plan on its basis, and who work to exploit it.

Our sincerity to the values and principles on which your union was established is being tested every day against the background of this fact — values and principles our nation has upheld since the beginning of the century and for which our fathers, grandfathers, and martyrs died. The result of the test is always contrary to our wishes and at variance with our nation's commitments, both in its written and nonwritten charters.

The internecine fighting in Lebanon has continued to grind down the state, scorch the earth, and kill the souls. After more than 10 years of civil war, Lebanon has become representative of the negative aspects of the Arab body, except for the brave national resistance, which is confronting the occupation in southern Lebanon. We hope and wish that all the Lebanese leaders will resort to wisdom and respond to the requirements of national and pan-Arab interests by heeding the voice of reason, interests, and conscience, and begin an expanded national reconciliation, which they have been talking about for a long time and for which their people and nation are waiting.

And in the western side of the Arab homeland, the Sahara war is raging, exhausting resources and entrenching hatred. It has been raging for 10 years. Our nation continues to hope for and await an end for this war to spare our energies and preserve our capabilities. We hope efforts will be unified and attention directed toward the challenges facing the entire Arab world, especially the three external dangers which seriously threaten our Arab nation and homeland and which are aimed at destabilizing the prerequisites of our nation's existence and means of developing its strength, depriving it of its vitality, and destroying the foundations of its aspiration to achieve a more advanced formula for unity than the present one.

Ladies and gentlemen, these external dangers are: first, Israeli occupation of Arab land and the expansionist Zionist trend; second, Iranian aggression against Iraq, commonly termed the Gulf war; third, the separatist movement in southern Sudan. Looking closely at the three dangers, we see a common factor that governs all of them. This factor consists of the following elements: First, the source of the danger that emanates from all these is a foreign country or force, or both. Second, these countries or forces seek to detach part of the Arab land. Third, these countries or forces intend, in the event of succeeding in detaching part of the Arab land, to alter the main characteristics of this land and what is on it, as is the case in southern Sudan, or to sever it and name it part of the aggressive country, as is the case in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and the Golan, or to absorb it to make it a satellite, as the Iranian rulers hope to do through their aggressive war against Iraq and later the Arab Gulf states. Fourth, these dangers do not face a unified Arab stand and have become aggravated as a result of Arab fragmentation.

In southern Sudan a separatist movement is actively at work and has succeeded in paralyzing fraternal Sudan's capabilities and in preventing it from devoting its efforts to providing security and growth for a united Sudan. This movement receives direct assistance from one or more countries in the region and sympathy from a number of forces and countries outside the region. In both cases, those who provide assistance and sympathy base their stands on strategic considerations and interests. Some regard the emergence of a new non-Arab state in southern Sudan as an important link with which the non-Arab belt would be completed and which would separate Arab north Africa from Arab central and southern Africa and curtail constructive interaction between these parts, and perhaps make them opposing sides. Some regard the establishment of a such a state an additional base for their strategic movement in Africa; others regard the establishment of this state as a means to weaken Sudan and consequently weaken Egypt, which has integration in resources and energies with Sudan. In all of these cases, there is a strategic danger threatening the Arab homeland now and in the future. Where is the unified Arab stand and joint Arab action in the face of this great danger?

Regarding the Iraq-Iran war, it is no longer a secret — at a time when this war has entered its 6th year, during which there have been serious attempts to stop it and statements and declaration of stands by the two warring sides — that the Tehran rulers' objective is to change the Arab regime in Iraq and replace it with another regime similar to the one ruling Iran. The effects and consequences of this approach on the Arab entity from the Gulf to the ocean, if implemented, are also no secret to anyone.

The Arab regime in Iraq is the result of a great pan-Arab labor which began at the end of the past century and gained strength in the form of a comprehensive pan-Arab struggle in Arab Asia which triggered the great Arab revolution during World War I. It is true that this revolution did not achieve all its objectives because of the allies' plots against it through the Sykes-Picot agreement, which fragmented the Fertile Crescent and paved the way for the establishment of Israel. It is also true, however, that this revolution ripened the pan-Arab conscience, entrenched the principles and concepts of Arabism, and laid down the basis for the Arab regimes in Iraq, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and part of Palestine.

With the outbreak of and due to the great Arab revolution, Arabism nourished our conscience and became the identity and psychological example for generations in schools, institutes, houses, clubs, societies, and in all official and unofficial institutions.

Since that time, Arab struggle has changed from a struggle to entrench the Arab identity into a struggle for unity and freedom. Arabism is no longer a subject of dispute or interpretations, because Arabism means us and our existence. We will not accept any attempt to cast doubt on our existence or the constituents of our character, which is distinguished by its history, culture, heritage, and aspirations. Is there anyone on earth who can accept attempts to cast doubt on his existence? It is normal for a person to agree to place himself at the disposal of his enemies' scalpel to mutilate his face and change his character? Is not that abnormality and suicide? Who can agree to commit suicide in compliance with his enemy's wish?

Ladies and gentlemen, this is what the Tehran rulers imagine they can achieve through the continuation of this aggressive war against fraternal Arab Iraq. This illusion stems from their intransigence and rejection of all peace and reconciliation initiatives. They have indulged in their evil. They have misinterpreted Iraq's response to peace initiatives as a sign of weakness and not of good intentions, and as a sign of collapse and not as sincere and responsible intensions to establish relations of neighborliness.

From the beginning, we have been aware of the objectives of the Tehran regime's provocation against Iraq. We realize the true objectives of the war, its consequences, and the effects if the Iranian regime achieves victory over Iraq, God forbid. This is why we sided with Iraq from the beginning, whether regarding its right to defend its territory or its approach toward a peaceful settlement of the conflict.

The heroic Iraqi people and their brave Army are not only defending Basra, Kirkuk, and Baghdad, but also Arab identity in the states of the Arab Gulf and Fertile Crescent. The objectives of the aggressive war on which the Tehran rulers insist constitute another strategic threat to the Arab nation just like the separatist movement in southern Sudan. The question is: Would it have been possible for this war to enter its 6th year had there been a unfied Arab stand? Where is that stand and where is joint Arab action?

As for the third danger, which is the danger of Israel's continuing occupation of Arab territory as a tangible, material expression of Israeli expansionism backed by military power, I explained to the nation 3 weeks ago in my speech broadcast on 19 February the reality of the Palestine question as we perceive it and live with it as well as the imminent dangers posed to the people and land of Palestine and the sanctities of both the Arabs and Muslims, particularly in holy Jerusalem. I explained the reasons which prompted us to extricate the Palestine question from the abyss of no war and no peace and to prevent it from falling into the mire of international polarization. Had this polarization been crystallized, it would have led to the consecration of the fait accompli resulting from the June 1967 war. I also explained in detail the efforts we exerted to transfer the Arab peace plan from the cycle of stands and principles into a mobile political process by concluding the 11 February agreement with the PLO. I also explained the obstacles we faced and the strides we made as well as the reasons why we terminated these efforts.

Therefore, regarding this subject and on this occasion, I will simply affirm the basic principles governing our position on political action for the Palestine question, which constitutes the crux of the Arab-Israeli conflict. These basic principles are: 1) Jordan is not a trustee for the Palestinian people and does not agree to be so; 2) Jordan is not and will not be a substitute for the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people; 3) Jordan is committed to the Arab summit resolutions, especially the resolutions of the Rabat and Fes Summits of 1974 and 1982; 4) Nevertheless, in view of its direct link to the occupied Palestinian territory and pan-Arab responsibility, Jordan will continue to play the role of helper and supporter for the Palestinian people in the occupied territory within the limits of capabilities as long as it does not conflict with its national security, which is an indivisible part of our pan-Arab security.

Brethren, the elapse of about 19 years since the occupation of the rest of Palestine, which embraces Arab Jerusalem with tis Islamic and Christian holy places, and the measures which accompanied and are accompanying this occupation against the people in the occupied territory as well as the changes made on its nature and character should at the minimum alert us to the complications of the continuation of this occupation and its impact on the entire Palestine question and what is linked to it, and more importantly make us reconsider our priorities. The static stand toward a mobile enemy is a danger in itself. What are we then to do, where is the unified Arab viewpoint, and where is unified Arab action?

Brothers and sisters, although the Arab League is the official framework accepted by the Arab countries for joint action in terms of politics, defense, culture, and economy, the Arab Parliamentary Union is the conscience of the people on which the Arab has pinned his hopes to safeguard its feeling of the supreme

Arab interest and to promote its awareness of its interests within the context of its ideals and aspirations.

Undoubtedly, the two frameworks entwine to become a unified large sphere in which aspirations and capabilities interact and in which the vision or idea becomes a policy and action to attain our supreme aims and objectives in developing the Arab homeland, preserving the Arab identity, and protecting pan-Arab security from internal and external sedition and violence. The Arab League and Arab Parliamentary Union, the highest Arab official and popular institutions, are called upon today more than ever to conduct a constructive dialogue among all Arab brothers as a first step toward ending the division and fragmentation in which the Arab homeland is being sliced up from outside and is collapsing from within. Perhaps the repetition of and regular meetings among Arab brothers from summit level to specialist councils will effectively contribute to expanding the scope of dialogue and achieve harmony, accord, and agreement.

Dialogue, as you know, does not mean negotiation. Dialogue emanates from the realization by a number of sides of a common danger which they deem it necessary to repulse, or from an awareness of a joint interest which they deem it necessary to achieve. Negotiation is principally based on a problem between two or more sides on which they agree on the need to resolve, while every side seeks to achieve the greatest gain at the expense of the other. Thus, the prerequisites of dialogue are trust, sincerity, and goodwill, while the principles of negotiations are circumvention, maneuver, and trickery.

We call for dialogue and its prerequisites so that it would not become negotiation, because none of us is absolutely right just as none of us is completely wrong. This should be the base for our endeavors to inaugurate a new phase of constructive action in confronting the dangers our homeland and nation are facing. Sincerity, trust, and goodwill are the base. These are the values and standards of which we are proud and which have always been the example we have followed in Jordan in running our life and in our dealing with others, brothers or friends, and without which no dialogue could continue or achieve its objectives. They are the base and shield for any positive, joint action.

Ladies and gentlemen, in conclusion, it pleases me to reiterate my welcome to you among your kinfolk and in your country, Jordan, which is proud of your presence and wishes you like all fraternal countries success in your work. In God's name and blessing, I open your fourth parliamentary conference. God's peace and blessings be upon you. [applause]

'Arafat Interviewed on Husayn 19 Feb Speech

GF111518 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 10 Mar 86 pp 22, 23

[Interview with Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, by correspondent of the London-based magazine *AL-YAWM AL-SABI'* Bilal al-Hasan, in Tunis — published by *AL-QABAS* in agreement with the magazine — date not given]

[Excerpts] [Bilal al-Hasan] At the begining, how did you receive King Husayn's speech? Were you surprised by the speech?

[Yasir 'Arafat] It is the timing that surprised us, because after the visit by Dr Usamah al-Baz, envoy of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, to Amman, I was supposed to send an envoy to continue discussions with the Jordanian side. Brother Hani al-Hasan moved immediately, but he could not meet any of the Jordanian officials during that period and until the speech was broadcast. That was the surprise.

[Al-Hasan] But this surprise should have reasons. What reason do you think was behind Jordan's abrupt decision to announce its position?

['Arafat] This was a surprise to us because we agreed to stop negotiations in a bid to find a way out of the deadlock which we had reached due to the U.S. obstinacy in rejecting the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and in refusing to deal with the special international resolutions concerning the Palestinian issue and due to the U.S. insistence on dealing with the Resolutions 242 and 338 only.

[Al-Hasan] During this period you presented, in the name of the Palestinian leadership, three formulas to King Husayn to present to the United States. Did Jordan present these formulas to the United States?

['Arafat] During my visit to Turkey some days ago, I was surprised to hear Richard Murphy say he has not received any formulas from the Palestinian leadership. Of course, this is not accurate, because the three formulas were delivered to King Husayn. I personally gave them to him. The formulas were also given to President Mubarak during my visit to Cairo. Hence, the United States should have received the three formulas either from Jordan or from Egypt.

[Al-Hasan] If Jordan did not convey the formulas it means that Jordan considers itself a negotiator on behalf of the United States.

['Arafat] I cannot say that Jordan did not convey the formulas, but I think that Murphy was not accurate in his talk. I have confirmed information that the formulas reached the United States from more than one source — Egypt or Jordan.

[Al-Hasan] Despite the seriousness of the speech delivered by King Husayn and despite the seriousness of the position he adopted against the PLO, we notice that the Palestinians are so patient over the speech. What are the reasons for this patience?

['Arafat] First, we should not at all respond nervously to any major and serious political position, especially as the speech came at a time when Iraq is fighting one of the most dangerous battles on the eastern front of our Arab nation and at a time when the Israelis are assaulting southern Lebanon, Lebanese villages, and Palestinian camps. We are still concerned about this like the other Arab brothers, who are concerned about the dangerous situation on the eastern front. The Palestinian leadership will meet shortly to discuss the speech and to respond to it. We have formed a committee to study the question and present proposals. All of these issues will be discussed by the Palestinian leadership represented by the Executive Committee, the Central Committee, and other leading organs over the coming days.

[Al-Hasan] Do you think that King Husayn's speech and the Palestinian reply will lead to the abolition of the Palestinian-Jordanian agreement?

['Arafat] We are still adhering to the agreement by all leading Palestinian legislative and executive organs. Although King Husayn's speech has frozen the joint action, we still do not think of abolishing the agreement. The agreement is not only articles written on paper, but it represents joint Jordanian-Palestinian efforts.

[Al-Hasan] The speech focused on the concept of credibility and on the leadership of the organization lacking political credibility. What is your comment on the issue of the credbility, especially since it has been mentioned before by some Arab systems?

['Arafat] If credibility means that I do not want treachery, then credibility is an honor which I do not want to deny. However, the speech indicated that on 15 August 1985 Jordan discussed the issue of Resolution 242 with us and that we agreed on it in the house of Zayd al-Rufa'i with the presence of Palestinian representatives Yasir 'Arafat, "Abd al-Raziq al-Yahya, Khalil al-Wazir, and Muhammad Milhim, and with Jordan represented by Zayd al-Rifa'i, Murwan al-Qasim, Tahir al-Masir, and 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah. I want to tell what actually happened at the meeting. The meeting was to discuss the formation of the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation that was supposed to meet with U.S. envoy Richard Murphy before the meeting of the extraordinary Arab summit in Casablanca. However, the U.S. side officially requested a postponement of the meeting until the convocation of the summit. Murphy said: The meeting with the joint delegation should take place following the success of the Casablanca summit. He also said: According to information available to the U.S. Administration, the Arab summit will not be held because there is a veto concerning its convocation.

However, the summit was held on 7-9 August 1985, despite Murphy's information. Here I would like to remind all that the conference focused on two main points. First was the need to adhere to the Fes resolutions which affirm the constant rights of the Palestinians to self-determination and to establish their independent state, and the UN resolutions which state that the capital of the Palestinian state is Jerusalem. Second, the Arab summit adopted an important new decision on the Arab commitment to an international conference with the participation of the USSR, the United States, and the other permanent members of the UN Security Council and to be attended by all of the conflicting parties, including the PLO, on equal bases. This was what we agreed upon on 7-9 August 1985 during the Arab summit. Is it possible that we agreed with the Jordanian side to abandon what we have agreed upon with the other Arab parties during the extraordinary Arab summit?

During the meeting on 15 August 1985, Jordan informed us of the U.S. decision to reject the joint meeting the Americans asked to postpone until after the Arab summit and told us that the Amercians insist that the PLO should recognize Resolution 242. Thus the discussion of the meeting of the joint delegation with the Americans ended.

[Al-Hasan] Some Lebanese parties have begun to say that 'Arafat is returning to Beirut, and that the PLO is returning as well. Is this correct?

['Arafat] First, Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] will not return to Beirut. Second, the organization is still in Beirut. all of the conspiracies and military operations in Beirut and in the south against the camps of 'Ayn al-Hulwah, and Al-Miya Miya by Lahd and Ja'ja' have so far failed. All of the attacks against Sabra, Shatila, and Burj al-Barajinah by Amal and its allies have failed. No one can wipe a half million Palestinians from the map. They accuse me of arming them. Is this a crime? We left, but there was an agreement to protect the Palestinian camps between us and Philip Habib. What happened? Beirut was invaded. The first and the second massacres of Sabra and Shatila occurred. Therefore it is my right to carry out my duties with regards to these camps.

[Al-Hasan] There were basic tenets in the speech. One was that the PLO is exaggerating its conditions and is not satisfied with legal rights only, but insists on the right to self-determination. Why the insistence by your side on the right to self-determination?

['Arafat] It was possible for us to say that just mentioning the legal and stable rights of the Palestinian people according to the UN resolutions is sufficient and useful, if the U.S. side did not have a previous stance on it that could not be ignored. I must explain a point here. During the preparation of Reagan's plan some Arab sides, particularly the Saudi and Egyptian sides, tried, with the U.S. Administration, to improve the contents of this initiative. Thus, an article on right of the Palestinians to self-determination was inserted. However, 48 hours before its declaration, Henry Kissinger intervened — you can ask Egyptian Ambassador Ashraf Ghirbal and Saudi Ambassador Faysal Hujaylan, who witnessed the incident, about this and about how the U.S. Administration approved the Kissinger's proposal — and the right to self-determination was deleted from the initiative. Instead a formula was inserted which simply stated to look into their future and identity linked with Jordan. Therefore, due to this U.S. stance that totally rejects the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, which was seen in many statements after Reagan's plan, and also due to the Israeli stance, which revealed its ugly face in the Camp David accords and which refuses the right of the Palestinians to self-determination, it is necessary to insist on clarity in mentioning legal rights that mean the right to self-determination. We must be clear in all of our political moves and all our agreements with any side, whether it is an Arab or an international side, because the Arab nation still suffers from explaining Resolution 242. In a word, the differences on this resolution boil down to whether we should say withdraw from "the" occupied territories or just withdrawal from occupied territories. History is merciless and for the sake of our people and children we must be intricate in our dealings with it.

[Al-Hasan] This means that you do not trust the U.S. interpretation of the meaning of legal rights and for that reason there was insistence on mentioning the right to self-determination?

['Arafat] They have said that themselves. Even Resolution 242, which the Americans say contains an indication for finding a just solution to the problem of the refugees, was explained differently after the famous Soviet-U.S. statement of Cyrus Vance and Andrey Gromyko in October 1977. When the U.S.-Israeli statement was issued between Vance and Moshe Dayan the statement of Vance and Gromyko was demolished. That statement said that whatever was mentioned about the refugees in Resolution 242 means Jewish and Arab refugees. It means that even the word refugees mentioned in Resolution 242 was stripped by the U.S.-Israeli statement of any reference to Palestinian refugees. That is why it was necessary that we specifically indicate the right to self-determination to avoid the maneuvers and contradictory interpretations. In the three formulas we proposed we said the right to self-determination based on the joint Jordanian-Palestinian agreement. This means the right to self-determination within the framework of a confederation between Jordan and Palestine. Even on this flexibility the U.S. stance has remained inflexible and any indication of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination has been refused.

Therefore, our fears were justified and in their place. With the flexibility we set in the three formulas we revealed the ugly U.S. face. In his speech King Husayn indicated the U.S. obstinacy, but unfortunately instead of blaming the United States he blamed us, exactly as happened with Thatcher when the PLO was blamed that time. There is an Egyptian saying: When the bull falls, the knives thrown on him increase. They believe that after the Palestinian revolution's departure from Beirut the knives against it could be increased.

[Al-Hasan] Therefore the partner is not a real one?

['Arafat] He has to decide that, not me, because the Palestinian-Jordanian relationship is distinguished and historic. It is totally impossible not to abide by it. It is the decision and will of the representatives of the Palestinian people of the 16th and 17th PNC sessions.

[Al-Hasan] The speech was followed by an intensified political media campaign for the support of the occupied territories for the Jordanian political stance and for King Husayn's speech. Also, in connection with this design, attempts are being made to form a substitute Palestinian leadership. What is your view concerning this design and the means to confront it?

['Arafat] This is not a design and the objectives are known. Our people have had their say. Even the Israeli and U.S. papers noted the Palestinian stance inside the occupied territories. The U.S. papers consider this stance a blow to the State Department and to the U.S. Administration officials in charge of the Middle East issues, because they used to believe, according to what was said by *THE NEW YORK TIMES, THE WASHINGTON POST*, and other papers, that following King Husayn's speech, the masses would burst forth to announce their support. What happened was, since the Palestinian masses are being subjected to occupation, suppression, and all types of hardships and since I was far from them, the masses adopted a bitter national stance in some of their phenomena. My duty was to reduce this bitterness because I did not want to cause a Jordanian-Palestinian split between the two peoples. We have exerted great effort to avoid the effects of September 1970 incidents and we do not want to go back to them. This is a PNC decision.

[Al-Hasan] But this does not prevent some sides from polarizing elements who say that they are a substitute leadership. Can this act take the form of a popular conference in the face of the PLO and its leadership?

['Arafat] If we are afraid of such talk, we will have to give up hope. Our confidence in our people is big and the quality of our people lies in the fact that they are more important than their leadership. Our people are more important than their previous, current, and future leadership. Therefore, my faith in this people will not be shaken. Attempts were made more than once to falsify the people's will, but could those attempts achieve success after 37 years? Despite all of the conspiracies, beginning with the conspiracies of Great Britain and the conspiracies of the European stance, to the conspiracies which took place before the sponsorship of Zionism was transferred from Europe to United States, in addition to the U.S. conspiracies and some weak Arab stances, our people have remained steadfast. No one can falsify the will of our people. Our people have rejected the offers for their settlement in Australia, Canada, United States, and in some Arab countries. They have rejected those offers and have refused the falsification of their will.

[Al-Hasan] This trend to form a substitute leadership might be linked with a Jordanian-Syrian alliance, the indications of which have already been noticed. Is not the Palestinian leadership worried about a Jordanian-Syrian alliance that would support a popular conference against the PLO?

['Arafat] It does not worry us at all. No one can falsify the will of the Palestinian people . I would like to put the following question to the Arab masses: Syria used to attack me because I used to agree with King Husayn. I would like to ask the Arab masses what their reply is to this Jordanian-Syrian encounter? The Syrians, the Syrian papers, and some Arab papers used to attack me and accuse me that I would recognize Resolution 242. What would be the Arab masses' reply had there been a Jordanian-Palestinian agreement based on this method?

[Al-Hasan] What about the idea which calls for holding an international conference with the participation of Syria and Jordan, but not the PLO?

['Arafat] I was officially informed by the Soviet Union that, in their view, the international conference should be equally attended by all of the conflicting sides, including the PLO. This was affirmed by the official messages exchanged between the Soviets and me and this is the exact Soviet stance.

[Al-Hasan] Briefly, you mean to say that Jordan delivered this speech because it had no other satisfactory substitutes. How do you explain this Jordanian move by political logic?

['Arafat] I know the answer to this question, but it is difficult for me to say it now. If an Arab summit conference is held, I will give all of the serious information that I have.

[Al-Hasan] After the freezing of the agreement by the Jordanian side, do you view the matter as an end to one of the stages of political action?

['Arafat) I do not proceed from an action based on stages, but from an action of continuous basis. In political action, the leader in charge deals with all matters whether negatively or positively.

The U.S. side set the condition that we should accept UN Resolution 242. This was contained in the speech of King Husayn. However, King Husayn did not include everything in his speech. In his latest press statement, Richard Murphy said that King Husayn's speech did not mention everything. Murphy says this, not me. What Murphy means is the Israeli conditions which will follow the U.S. conditions. The Israeli conditions state that even if the PLO accepts Resolution 242, there must be Israeli consent to include the PLO in the international conference. There are other conditions which were not tackled by King Husayn's speech as admitted by Murphy.

[Al-San] Don't you think that all of this should prompt you to reconsider the possibility of dealing with the U.S. blocked wall for Palestinians and to seek another political means other than Jordanian partnership?

['Arafat] Never in my life have I dealt with the U.S. wall as a wailing wall. I deal with the proposals of Arab and international countries concerning the Palestinian issue because I am concerned with the issue. I can not accept any proposal concerning the Palestinian issue by any party without being involved in it and dealing with it, whether positively or negatively. I must deal with any proposal, otherwise I would not be loyal to the responsibility which my people have entrusted upon me. Therefore, the PLO is required to deal with all political proposals — those of the blocked walls, ones planted with mines, and those which have clear passage. We must deal with all of these. We cannot stand idle then weep and say that we were taken by surprise.

[Al-Hasan] With whom will you move now, following the freeze of the agreement?

['Arafat] As we have acted before.

[Al-Hasan] Were there other allies?

['Arafat] Does one deal only with his allies? One deals with himself, with his allies, and with his opponents. We still have many allies. The most important force to me is my people and the force of the Arab masses who have begun to realize that this leadership, despite all of the pressures exercised by more than one party against it, is firm in confronting blackmail, even if the consequence of this talk is another raid against my headquarters in Tunis or elsewhere. Recent events have proven we are the partywhich possesses credibility when dealing with the allies, we are the party which is trusted in political dealings, and we are not so naive as to be deceived.

[Al-Hasan] After King Husayn's speech, what are the proposed alternatives before the PLO as practical alternatives to a rapid move? For instance, is there any possibility for a Syrian-Palestinian meeting which logically must take place after this stage?

['Arafat] We, in the Palestinian leadership, have made a decision to turn over a new leaf and to not answer the Syrian propaganda campaigns. To date, we are abiding by this decision taken by the Palestinian leadership in their meetings in Baghdad, but the Syrian side has continued its propaganda campaign.

[Al-Hasan] Is there any Syrian initiative that may open the way for dialogue?

['Arafat] We have said in our statement that we would respond to any initiative.

[Al-Hasan] But are there any positive initiatives?

['Arafat] None so far.

[Al-Hasan] Concerning internal Palestinian relations with dissident factions, do you think that the new relations with Jordan may open the way for dialogue with them?

['Arafat] No, it is difficult because those dissidents have mortgaged their will to the Arab intelligence services. However, there is a glimmer of hope in this respect, such as appeared during the meeting that took place among the Fatah movement, the Palestinian Communist Party, and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine in Prague some days ago. With a Soviet effort, the meeting resulted in the formation of a Palestinian delegation which participated in the CPSU congress on behalf of the PLO. The delegation included a member from each of the PFLP, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Palestinian Communist Party, and an independent member. The delegation was led by Brother Faruq Qaddumi. We hope that this initiative will crystalize further.

BAHRAIN

Heir Apparent Leaves for Saudi Arabia

GF120724 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0655 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] Manama, 12 Mar (WAKH) — His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, Bahraini heir apparent and acting prime minister, left Manama for Riyadh today on an official 3-day visit to Saudi Arabia at the invitation of His Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard.

During his visit, His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah will attend the second national heritage and cultural festival, to be inaugurated later today by His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia.

KUWAIT

State, Military Leaders Inspect NE Border

LD111849 Kuwait KUNA in English 1750 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Kuwait, March 11 (KUNA) — H.H. the Crown Prince and Premier Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah Tuesday morning inspected the advanced military positions in the Bubiyan Island and other north eastern border points accompanied by Defense Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah.

Chief of staff Major General 'Abdallah Faraj al-Ghanim topped the reception party of H.H. the crown prince along with senior army officers.

The crown prince inspected Kuwaiti military outposts in the island and the north eastern borders and hailed efforts of his sons and brother officers, non-commissioned officers and soldiers of the Kuwaiti Armed Forces in defense of the precious national soil.

Commanders of the armed positions welcomed the safe return of H.H. the crown prince to the homeland and underlined that the premier's visit reflects his amicable feelings to the army members which in turn elevates the morale of his sons, members of the Armed Forces.

In conclusion of the commanders' welcome statement, they pledged to H.H. the crown prince to remain loyal soldiers and to sacrifice their lives "for the sake of our dear country under leadership of H.H. the amir and supreme commander of the Armed Forces and his crown prince praying to the Almighty to preserve Kuwait from all evils."

A number of soldiers delivered welcome poems on the occasion of the visit and H.H.'s return to the country safe and sound.

H.H. then had lunch with his sons the officers and soldiers in one of the outposts and met with a number of conscript officers at the advanced posts.

At the end of the crown prince's inspection tour, Shaykh Sa'd delivered a statement in presence of a number of officers and soldiers at one of the advanced military positions also addressed to all members of the Armed Forces and to all Kuwaitis.

H.H. the crown prince said that he preferred to start his official duties by visiting the military outposts, inspecting them and listening to detailed explanations from senior commanders on their duties.

Shaykh Sa'd, addressing members of the Armed Forces as sons of those of who sacrificed their lives for the sake of Kuwait, said "you today shoulder the same responsibility in defending the entity and independence of our dear nation."

"When we adopt such necessary precautions, they would not be interpreted as intending evil or harm against anyone or that we wish to interfere in internal affairs of any country; but it is our right to defend ourselves and to protect our country with all available strength and arms," the premier emphasized.

The crown prince highlighted that ever since the outbreak of the war between the two Muslim neighbors, Iraq and Iran, Kuwait sensing its duty and responsibility has exerted efforts along with brothers and friends to find a formula to end this destructure war.

"We are still seeking all means to reach that formula to end the Muslims' blood-letting," Shaykh Sa'd noted.

The crown prince said "We, in Kuwait, believe that progress and stability of this region depends in the first place on cooperation and understanding among its countries and that all should work to close any gap that would otherwise be exploited by other parties who do not wish this region welfare, stability and progress."

The defense minister, Shaykh Salim al-Sabah delivered a statement on behalf of his brothers the army officers and soldiers welcoming H.H. the crown prince's safe return home and describing his visit as an honour to the army members.

"Your sons the Kuwaitis have welcomed your safe return and now your sons the military receive you, both in the spirit of love and true allegiance to you and to H.H. the amir, our father and leader," Shaykh Salim said.

The defense minister affirmed to H.H. the crown prince that those who had put on the military uniform had done so upon deep conviction and belief that were boosted today by "your highness' advice to be alert and cautious."

The crown prince and premier will receive heads of Arab and foreign diplomatic missions accredited to Kuwait to congratulate him on his safe return at 4.30 p.m. (local time) next Saturday.

Actions Taken After Embassy Demonstrations in Tehran

LD111553 Kuwait KUNA in English 1347 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Kuwait, March 11 (KUNA) — Kuwait Foreign Ministry has Tuesday taken a number of steps to handle the situation arising out of the demonstrations in front of the Kuwaiti Embassy in Tehran today.

Among the measures taken was notification of Iran Embassy here of the responsibility for their country of any possible damage to the Kuwait Embassy in Tehran, reminding them of the diplomatic duties the Iranian Government is expected to perform.

The Kuwaiti move followed a demonstration staged in Tehran today by university students and trade unions hoisting unjust slogans criticising Kuwait and the Arab Gulf states.

Other steps taken included contact with Kuwait Embassy in Iran and the authorisation of the charge d'affaires there Kazim Maarafi [spelling as received] to convey a message to the Foreign Ministry's Political Department chief Hussein Lloawassani [spelling as received] on the Kuwaiti stance. The message, which Lloawassani was to deliver to the Foreign Ministry, was on the necessity of maintaining security of the embassy and safety of the Kuwaiti nationals against the possible dangers of such processions.

Meanwhile, an authorised source today reasserted the well-known role of Kuwait regarding the Iraqi-Iranian war. Besides performing its nationalist and Islamic duty, Kuwait's responsibility is directed toward putting an end to the war, providing security and stability in the region and keeping it aloof of any catastrophe that could take the lives of thousands and impede development.

PDRY

UAE Paper: Official on Relations With YAR, Ethiopia

GF111240 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 11 Mar 86 pp 3, 8

[Taha al-Nu'man dispatch from Amman]

[Text] 'Ali Ahmad al-Sallami, secretary of the PDRY Supreme People's Council Presidium and chairman of the PDRY delegation to the fourth Arab Parliamentary Union [APU] conference in Amman, has told *AL-ITTIHAD* that the number of dead among party cadres during the recent events in Aden was between 1,500 and 2,000 people, according to the latest statistics from the Ministry of the Interior. He said that his country's relations with Ethiopia have begun to improve even though it supported former President 'Ali Nasir during the crisis.

Al-Sallami added that the Yemeni Government and the party officials are now working to remedy the question of the party cadres who left with 'Ali Nasir when he and his forces withdrew. However, he added that it is unlikely that former chairman 'Ali Nasir has the ability to resume fighting or to regain power.

Regarding relations with the YAR, he said that President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has sent 75 trucks loaded with provisions to Aden, including 9 trucks loaded with medical equipment and medicine.

He added: The government forces have entered Abyan, the homeland of 'Ali Nasir, without resistance. The masses have welcomed our forces.

Concerning the total number of dead, Al-Sallami said: There are no detailed statistics in this regard, but the circulated figure indicating the number dead is 13,000 is an exaggerated one.

He added that the side meetings held by the Soviet friends during the recent 27th CPSU Congress in Moscow with a number of presidents and leaders who supported 'Ali Nasir during the crisis have heard the facts and are beginning to understand the nature of what had been done by 'Ali Nasir on 13 January. He stressed that relations have actually begun to improve with such countries as Ethiopia, which once sympathized with the former chairman.

SAUDI ARABIA

Finance Minister on Budget, Economic Situation

GF111855 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1655 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Riyadh, 11 Mar (SPA) — Muhammad Aba al-Khayl, finance and national economy minister, has affirmed that all fixed funds included in the general budget, such as salaries, and all other constant monthly or annual allowances will continue as before in implementation of the directives of His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz that priority in the state expenditure should be given to the essential needs of citizens. This came in a statement by his excellency to the Saudi television broadcast this evening.

Responding to a question on the features of the economic and financial situation in the Kingdom at present, His Excellency Muhammad Aba al-Khayl stated that the speech delivered by His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz yesterday has defined the general framework of these features. He pointed out that the Kingdom has finished the upturn stage which prevailed over the past years and which is represented by the period of construction and rehabiliation in which all were involved. He affirmed that our economy is passing through a period of stability and continuous growth rates. He added that the most important features characterizing this period are represented by the reduction in the prices of facilities such as houses, and good products as shown by the data prepared by the Public Statistical Department. The Public Statistical Department indicated that the cost of living and prices of needs in general decreased by 4.5 percent from 2 years ago. His excellency noted that this means that the per capita income increased by 4.5 percent, a great advantage which should be felt by all, because it not only helps to meet the general essential needs, but it also helps in production, which means that a decrease in the cost of living creates better conditions for new investment projects and other projects initiated by the citizens.

His excellency added that according to the data prepared by the Public Statistical Department, the Kingdom imported about 85,000 million Saudi riyals worth of commodities and goods during 1985. This is less than what the Kingdom imported in 1984 by 28 percent. He noted that this situation is positive and good and should be taken into account. Pressure on the market has been eased. Goods with reasonable quality were made available in the market instead of the huge quantities of good-quality and low-quality commodities coming to the market from various parts of the world. The decrease paved the way for local industries to find a place in the local market. Also the reduction of imports leads to a reduction of free currency which leaks from inside the country to outside due to the importation of these commodities. This enables the market to get goods better than the miscellaneous goods which filled the market in the past.

The finance and national economy minister spoke about the decline of oil prices referred to by His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz in his speech yesterday. His excellency indicated that oil prices at present are 50 percent less than they were 6 months ago. Last year, there was a reduction in the Kingdom's oil production. Now there is a reduction in oil prices. Both matters are negative. We hope that this situation will end soon. As a matter of fact, it is difficult to try to cope with the new situation imposed by the decreasing oil revenues, as oil revenues constitute two-thirds of the national income. It is known that the Kingdom depends on its oil revenues to a large extent. Therefore, any reduction in the Kingdom's oil revenues is a difficult matter which should be faced with objectivity and firmness.

His excellency affirmed that the directives of His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz were clear and decisive on this issue. His directives are to give priority to state expenditures concerning the essential needs of citizens. He added that his majesty the king was clear on this issue and that this facilitated the task of confronting the period — the period of declining revenues — because the priorities are clear. Consequently, it is easy to face the problem when there is a clear outlook. The directives of his majesty the king basically concern the need to give priority to and to maintain the reduction in the cost of living, which means that the state expenditure should continue as it is concerning the essential needs of citizens.

This matter leads to the important result that by maintaining the cost of living and prime cost in general, either in agricultural production, in industrial production, or in individual daily consumption, we can encourage production and investment. This means that by maintaining low costs of living we can create favorable conditions for investors in the national sector whether in industry, agriculture, or in other fields. Thus, the investor can expand his investments. This question was clear to all officials in the government and helped us to face the difficult period of coping resulting from the reduction in oil prices. I would like to point out that the problem lies not only in the reduction of oil prices and consequently the reduction in state revenues, but in the uncertainty of the situation. We all know or hear at present about the fluctuation of oil prices and about the reduction of prices day by day and the speculations about it. This has created an ambiguity that is difficult to face. For this reason, the government is facing the situation by extending work on the basis of the current budget, because it is difficult to deal with or decide on some matters which require more knowledge of the nature of the situation during the coming period.

Asked about the state of government expenditure in the upcoming stage, Aba al-Khayl said that all fixed expenditures or basic expenditures included in the general budget would continue at the present rate.

He noted that continuation of work in accordance with the previous year's budget is a common practice in the world countries and is not a new measure. This is not the first time such a procedure has occurred. In many world countries, the budget happens to be late for some simple reasons. In such cases work automatically continues according to the previous budget until the procedure for ratifying the new budget is complete. This procedure takes months.

Muhammad Abu al-Khayl reviewed some aspects of the fixed and continuous expenditure such as salaries, wages, and all monthly or yearly remunerations. He noted that the monthly average of such expenditures is about 4,900 million Saudi riyals.

His excellency affirmed that this matter would continue as it was last year. He also pointed out the loan of funds during the completed fiscal year and explained that they spent approximately 10,000 million riyals, that is, an average of 880 million riyals per month, and that this monthly average would continue over the coming months. Concerning agricultural and other aids, his excellency pointed out that last year approximately 5,600 million riyals were spent in this regard and he affirmed that this type of (?aid) would continue on the same level, as mentioned in the Cabinet statement.

Concerning the contracts of companies and establishments, whether maintenance or operation contracts or project execution contracts, his excellency said that at the moment there are 1,820 operation and maintenance contracts between government networks and public sector companies and establishments on which approximately 23,000 million riyals were spent last year; that is, an average of 2,000 million riyals were spent per month.

Concerning contracts for executing projects between government networks and contractors [word indistinct] internal and foreign, at the moment there are around 6,455 contracts. This means that at the moment there are 6,455 ongoing projects on which approximately 55,600 million riyals were spent last year. This means that the monthly average would be in the range of 3,904 million riyals for the coming months. With this the total number of contracts for operation and maintenance projects and project execution contracts reach 6,435 [as received] as noted in the Cabinet statement. The average monthly expenses on these contracts for the coming months will total 6,000 million riyals per month. These figures clarify that the basics are continuing and that the amounts to be spent during the coming months are substantial at any level. I would also like to say that the decision to continue spending at the level of the previous budget is a wise and logical measure considering the current circumstances the oil market is going through.

His excellency said: The ambiguity of the situation, the disturbance in the oil prices, and the obscurity of developments which will take place in the near future, stipulate tackling this situation wisely and intricately and continuing to work as we are at the moment and at the same level of the budget of the completed fiscal year until the situation clears. I believe that it is a clearly wise measure and expect that everyone will understand it on this basis. In the next few moments, God willing, the matters will be clarified in a better way and consequently the country will be able to look forward more clearly.

Responding to a question on the basics of the Saudi economy in the current stage, his excellency the minister of finance and national economy said: Regardless of the developments that took place, whether concerning oil prices or the amount of its production, and regardless of the ambiguity faced by the Kingdom's main source of income, oil, all that should not deviate our attention from the economic bases. Moreover, we should adapt to the current circumstances without ignoring the fundamentals of the Saudi economy, which could be briefed in a few definite points. For example, one can simply say that the Kingdom contains 25 percent of the world's reserve of crude oil, and that this is a vast capital and it is what differentiates the Kingdom's view on petroleum and the stability of prices from the view of other oil producing countries that do not have a reserve that large. The Kingdom, in its oil policy, looks ahead for many years, and, God willing, will remain to produce oil for a long time. This important resource will continue to be a constant requirement. This is a main point I wanted to mention. Another point is that, at the moment, the Kingdom, thanks to God, has construction projects and installations which are not found in many other countries. I am not talking about general installations that the government has built, but those that the citizens have built themselves. A majority of the people have constructed their houses and now reside in them. A majority of businessmen and companies have constructed the installations needed for production, storage, and so forth.

The Kingdom has also constructed general facilities, such as roads, ports, wireless networks, and other known facilities. This is productive and fruitful capital. If a certain society has such capital, it means that this society can invest in these facilities and use them for production. Thus, the aspects of exploiting these facilities continue. I would like to add that in addition to these facilities, there is capital possessed by individuals or companies which allows individuals and companies to make very easy investment and to expand these investments. This capital can be used for investment in various fields available in the country. The existence of public and basic facilities allows the investment of this capital. This is what is happening at present.

His excellency added that if we consider the budgets of the banks and the number of national companies and the capitals possessed by citizens in general, we would find that their material potentials are good. These potentials can be used for investment and can be circulated in the market to produce more money. His excellency pointed out that, thanks to God, the Kingdom has loan funds which were established by the government in the various fields over the years past with huge capital, such as the estate fund, the industrial fund, the agricultural fund, and others. These funds have paid-in capital at their disposal. Through this capital they can continue to grant loans and to be a source of support and assistance to the citizens in all of their needs, whether in building houses, in industry, or in agriculture.

His excellency said: These funds constitute capital. In other words, the available resources make investment easy. The people and funds have money. All of this means that the capital contributes toward further production and further investment.

His excellency added: What I would like to say here is that, thanks to God, the Saudi economy has achieved great growth over the years past. This growth has provided the economy with an intrinsic ability of psychological growth. The fixed and floating capital available in this society which is possessed by the government or by individuals provide the economy with the capacity for continuous instrinsic growth. These are the fundamentals to which I want to draw attention. Following current events concerning negative developments of oil means further growth and flourishing of the national economy.

AL-RIYAD Comments on Postponement of Budget

GF120630 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 12 Mar 86

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the title "The Local and International Significance of the Budget Decision," the newspaper *AL-RIYAD* today says: The government has made a decision, announced by His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz during the Cabinet session, to maintain the present budget for 5 more months, until in this period the world economic crisis clears. The economies of some oil-exporting countries have experienced shocks and have shrunk as a result of the undisciplined actions they have carried out. These actions were removed from the spirit of unanimous agreement and the circumstances of the world market. The decision to postpone the budget is a respite to probe the attitudes of those who still work only for themselves in the oil market without adhering to their commitments and the measures they have called for.

The Kingdom's decision is undoubtedly to protect its interests which were harmed as a result of nonadherence to commitments and the credibility of unanimous action. This nonadherence threatens the economy of the oil world and subjects its societies to strong shocks.

Moroccan Crown Prince Arrives on Official Visit

GF111644 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1625 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 11 Mar (SPA) — His Royal Highness Moroccan Crown Prince Mohamed ibn al-Hassan II and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Riyadh this evening on an official 8-day visit to the Kingdom. He was received at King Khalid International Airport by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard.

Correction to King Chairs Cabinet, Discusses Budget

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "King Chairs Cabinet Session, Discusses Budget," published in the 11 March Middle East & Africa DAILY REPORT, page C3.

Twelfth paragraph, line 3 reads: The government has provided loans to build houses, and more than 400,000 housing units have been constructed at a cost of more than 76 billion riyals. (changing second figure)

Same paragraph, line 7 reads: ... 892 industrial projects worth more than 13 billion riyals have been set up. (changing second figure)

Same paragraph, line 8 reads: The government has also granted farm loans, with 320,000 people making use of more than 19 billion riyals. (changing second figure)

UAE

PDRY Foreign Minister Arrives 11 Mar

GF111158 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1140 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Al-Shariqah, 11 Mar (WAKH) — Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the YSP Political Bureau and PDRY foreign minister, arrived in Al-Shariqah this afternoon on a visit to the UAE lasting several days.

During his visit Dr Al-Dali will meet with a number of UAE officials within the framework of the relations between the two countries.

Conveys Message to President

GF121024 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] His Highness President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan has received a message from His Excellency Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium in the PDRY. The message deals with bilateral relations, cooperation between the two countries, the situation in the PDRY, and current Arab issues.

The message was delivered by Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the YSP Political Bureau and PDRY foreign minister, during his meeting today with his highness the president at Al-Maqam Palace in Al-'Ayn.

The meeting was attended by Rashid 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs; Shaykh Sultan ibn Zayid; Khamis al-Rumaythi, director of the president's office; and Muhsin Naji, PDRY charge d'affaires in the UAE.

President Receives Sudanese Leader's Message

GF111324 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1250 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Al-'Ayn, 11 Mar (WAKH) — UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan has received a written message from General 'Abd al-Rahman Siwar al-Dhahab, chairman of the Sudanese Transitional Military Council, on bilateral relations.

The message was delivered by Sudanese Ambassador to the UAE 'Abd al-Latif 'Abd al-Hamid Ibrahim during Shaykh Zayid's meeting with him in Al-'Ayn today.

Report on Kuwaiti Paper's Interview With Mubarak

NC101900 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1755 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Excerpts] Cairo, 10 Mar (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has expressed the conviction that no religious or communist faction or any other group with a differing tendency was involved in the recent rioting in Egypt. These events were denounced by all of the country's political parties. President Mubarak affirmed that according to available information, there were no instigators involved in the incidents.

In an interview with 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Masa'id, editor-in-chief of the Kuwaiti *AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM* newspaper, President Mubarak described the recent rioting as an extremely limited problem. He said that he had dealt with it as quickly as possible to prevent irresponsible elements from exploiting the disturbances to sabotage Egypt.

The following is the text of President Mubarak's interview with the editor-in-chief of the Kuwaiti *AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM* newspaper:

AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM: Certain diplomatic circles have pointed out that the recent riotous acts presented you with your first challenge since assuming responsibilities as the president of Egypt 4 years ago. Your excellency, as a president confronted by disturbances for the first time, how did you treat these incidents?

Pesident Mubarak: I do not consider what happened to be a challenge at all, despite the fact that this is how some papers have portrayed it. I am not challenged by any Egyptian and I, myself, do not challenge anyone. I deal with problems in broad daylight and in public; I do not conceal anything.

In my last speech, which I delivered on Saturday, I said that I do not describe the general situation in Egypt as absolutely rosy. The recent riotous acts were narrow and very limited. I dealt with this reckless behavior as quickly as possible in order to prevent irresponsible elements from exploiting the disturbances to sabotage Egypt. The difficult circumstances through which we are living make it incumbent upon us to preserve all the homeland's resources. Hence, I can assert that what took place was in no way a challenge to me. In short, an isolated group, whose conditions had been mishandled as a result of deficiences and negligence, was exploited by a few members of this group to gain improvement in these conditions.

AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM: What does your excellency mean by deficiency and negligence in dealing with these conditions?

President Mubarak: Regarding the first point, the Central Security Forces camp near the Pyramids is situated very close to an area filled with large hotels. This is wrong. These camps should be located far away from urban and tourist areas. The second point pertains to the rumor that was spread among the Central Security Forces to the effect that their service had been extended for 1 year. This aroused rage among some of them. However, they returned to their senses and felt guilty and sorry for what they had done to Egypt. When we were informed that the situation could escalate and that external elements might attempt to infiltrate among the rioters, I immediately decided to confront these elements and settle the situation as quickly as possible. This is what actually took place.

AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM: It has been reported that certain extremist religious and leftist organizations were behind the disturbances. How true are these reports?

President Mubarak: The entire matter now rests with the judiciary, which is conducting investigations. The judiciary has the final word. However, I believe all these reports to be speculation on the part of many circles. I am convinced that no religious or communist faction or any other group with a differing tendency was involved. The rioting by Central Security soldiers was denounced by all of the country's political parties. Although investigations are not complete, available information indicates that no instigators were involved in the incidents. The entire affair was a protest against living conditions in the Central Security camps and the rumor of a 1 year increase in service.

AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM: In light of these developments, will the conditions of the Central Security Forces be examined?

President Mubarak: The Central Security Forces are performing their tasks to the best of their ability in the service of Egypt. We will only reconsider the location of their military camps. We will work to raise the educational and living standards of the Central Security soldiers.

AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM: In the wake of these incidents, certain opposition circles have called for the resignation of the government as a whole; they were not content with the dismissal of the interior minister alone. They even demanded the formation of a coalition government to confront possible developments in the aftermath of the initial rioting. What comment do you have on these demands?

President Mubarak: I am responsible constitutionally. The party of the majority is the ruling party. Therefore, what is the objective behind the formation of a coalition government? What more could this government have done? If it were to be formed, then we would only get lost in labyrinths. Opinions would diverge, we would differ, and everything would stop.

I am fully aware of the internal situation; I am in contact with the popular base; and I know all of the dimensions of reality well. What I am doing is in the interests of the Egyptian people and not only those of a certain faction. I always support and am biased in favor of low-income people. This is my main preoccupation. I will not hesitate to replace a minister or official if I see that he is not carrying out his work properly. But changing the Cabinet every day is something that would only obstruct the work of the state. The ministers of the current Cabinet are performing their work to the best of their abilities. Their accomplishments will be doubled and promoted.

AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM: The intervention of the Army was needed to settle the mutiny decisively. Why was the decision to use the Army delayed for 12 hours?

President Mubarak: There is a belief that the Army was slow in intervening. However, it is a fact that the troubles were limited from the start and confined to a small part of Egypt. When I discovered that there were certain external elements that might try to transfer these disturbances to other areas, I issued orders to repel and contain the situation quickly in order to prevent thieves from exploiting events to burglarize and steal. A similar situation occurred in New York when the electricity was cut off and thieves stole about $3 billion worth of goods. This caused me to quickly order the intervention of the Armed Forces once the entire picture became clear to me. It was the right decision made at the right time.

AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM: Your excellency, why did you insist on inspecting the Pyramids area, which was the site of the incidents, despite repeated security warnings?

President Mubarak: I am a military man. I spent the best part of my life in the Army and faced many dangers and shocks. Due to my military nature, I am not afraid to go anywhere. It is also my belief that there was no one who would think of attacking the president of the state. I am working for all people and for their interests and not for myself.

AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM: Your excellency, in the statement that you delivered on Wednesday, the second day of the disturbances, you referred to an atmosphere of incitement that had preceded these events. To what extent did this atmosphere lay the groundwork for this situation, particularly in light of the fact that the opposition supported the regime during the crisis?

President Mubarak: At the time, I advised that events should not be exaggerated and that the truth should be sought and told faithfully. I am still giving this advice and saying: An atmosphere of incitement — not only in this particular incident but in any difficult circumstance in which we find ourselves — might confuse views and ideas and lead to bad consequences. We are all seeking to serve the homeland and to raise its standard.

AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM: The Egyptian masses and the various parties rallied behind your leadership during the recent events. Some writers described this support as a second referendum on Husni Mubarak's leadership without intervention from the authority's apparatus or the ruling party. What is your opinion?

President Mubarak: Since my assumption of authority, I have been interested in democracy and the freedom of opinion. Everyone is aware of this. Here are the parties and here are the partisan newspapers. Can anyone tell me that I have banned people from writing or that I have confiscated any partisan or nonpartisan newspaper? Nothing of the sort has happened.

I have endured and I will continue to do so. I am laying the foundations for the future and not only for 1, 2, or 3 years. It is for this reason that I believe in the freedom of expression and in the existence of differing opinions. I appreciate opposing opinions. Opposition does, in fact, exist in Egypt. The presence of opposition opinions is unevitable and necessary. This is a very good environment; there is within it a sort of self-control. It is within such an environment that any mistake in the march can be revealed and a warning against it issued. In this way, those who intend to commit some mistake will be deterred. This provides people with the best guarantee, and this is what the people are now seeing: full freedom, complete democracy, and respect for public and private property. This is the possession of the people.

Acting from this premise, the people defended the homeland during the recent disturbances. The people defended its public and private property. This was proved by the actions of two guards at the rice factories in Suhaj and Asyut. Each carried his stick and a weapon and drove the saboteurs away from these factories. The saboteurs fled. The two guards defended the factories based on the belief that they were the property and livelihood of the people. It is the epitome of nationalism when the people defend the property and interests of the homeland. Therefore, I salute the Egyptian people. I emphasize again that I am enthusiastic about freedom and democracy. I also seek to avoid taking extraordinary measures as long as I can achieve stability through public law and ordinary measures. However, I might be forced to take extraordinary measures if I feel that there are grave dangers threatening Egypt and its supreme national interests.

AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM: Mr President, in your speech before the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council, you stated that Egyptian revenues will diminish greatly in the coming years. What is your program to overcome this economic crisis?

President Mubarak: The economic crisis is grabbing the whole world by the throat, and Egypt is part of this world. We have experienced many crises, which were the result of wars on which we spent a great deal and from which we suffered a great deal. Now we want to rebuild this country and secure a stable life for every Egyptian. The Egyptian people have toiled and endured a tremendous amount. We cannot pressure them further. Our aim is to reduce the pressures on the Egyptian groups with limited-income, who are toiling, struggling, and barely surviving.

However, unfortunately, several developments are beyond our control. Among these is the fall in oil prices, which has affected the revenues of the Gulf states, as well as that of Egypt. Because of this fall, the money sent home by Egyptians working in Gulf states has dwindled. The Gulf states' recession has affected their projects and compelled them to cut their imports. Because of the Gulf war and the attacks on tankers, fewer of them now cross the Suez Canal, which has caused a drop in the Canal's revenue.

Although Egypt does not produce as much oil as Saudi Arabia or Kuwait, oil constitutes an important part of our national income, which does not exceed $11.5 billion. The fall in oil prices has greatly affected our income. Estimates show that by 30 June this year, we will have lost $700 million from our gross national income as a result of the drop in oil prices. In the coming fiscal year, which begins in July, we will lose $1,200 million, if the situation remains the same.

Therefore, we must take measures to continue development in Egypt. These measures will not affect those with limited income. They are related to a more substantial contribution by the wealthy to the development process. If the rich do not contribute to the social welfare of the underprivileged, catastrophe will befall all of us. I am optimistic that the wealthy will cooperate on all the necessary measures. I will avoid putting pressure on those with limited income.

AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM: Mr President, it has been noticed that you reject Arab aid, although Arab integration is inevitable and necessary in everything. Why do you take such a stand?

President Mubarak: Do not ask me. The Arabs are brothers. It is not in my nature to open my palm and beg. I represent Egypt; I am its president. I express the opinion of every Egyptian in saying that we have our dignity and pride, and our feelings and emotions. I am not a head of state who resorts to terrorism against brotherly Arab states in order to squeeze aid from them. This will never happen. However, if a brotherly Arab nation, of its own volition, offers to give aid to Egypt, we will not reject it.

In fact, some states have helped us as much as they can, quietly and without fanfare. Although they have helped us only a little, we appreciate it. We fully realize their circumstances, and we view these countries with respect and esteem. This does not mean that we do not respect the states that have not helped us. We are aware of all the relevant circumstances.

AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM: Is there a likelihood of change in the present government?

President Mubarak: I do not know why there is growing speculation on this. I do not understand the intention of those who are reiterating that there will be such changes. Frankly, whenever I find there is a possibility for a change, I make it for the sake of a better performance. However, I do not make changes for the sake of change. If an official is doing his job perfectly, I will keep him. If he is not doing his job, I will tell him honestly: Give your place to another. This is how I will make changes.

It would be illogical to alter the government just because a small number from the Central Security Forces carried out limited acts of rioting. Any new ministers will have to study everything related to their ministries before they can start work. This will take them at least 6 months, during which the country will come to a stop. I do not encourage this or want this.

AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM: Does your excellency see a possibility that the PLO might recognize Israel without Israel recognizing the Palestinian people's right to self-determination?

President Mubarak: We have supported the Palestinian issue from the start. We are helping our brothers in the PLO as much as possible. When they came to Egypt, I asked the Palestinian brothers to find an appropriate formula that would allow them to recognize UN Resolutions 242 and 338 and to agree with King Husayn in order to prevent the peace process from coming to a stop. We are doing our best to establish a preoper coordination between the PLO and His Majesty King Husayn.

If our brothers in the PLO ask that we help them where the United States is concerned, then we will respond to their request and exert our efforts to assist them in attaining what they want. When the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement was issued, we spoke about it a great deal in the United States. When the question of an international conference was raised, I myself went to the United States to discuss it. King Husayn was also there and we cooperated in discussing this matter with the U.S. Administration. We have exerted maximum effort in serving the Palestinian issue. I cannot and I will not accept the imposition of anything on the Palestinian people; however, I am continuing to work hard on their behalf. Now that this has become an issue between His Majesty King Husayn and the Palestinians, we will exert great effort to reconcile the PLO and King Husayn.

If it becomes necessary to undertake efforts with Israel in order to help push forward the cause of peace, then we will also speak to Israel. Indeed, we have already contacted Israel and succeeded in surmounting some obstacles. There is nothing shameful in this. If we were to say that we are not holding contacts with Israel, then we would be a laughingstock. Relations exist between us and Israel and we do not fear them. Everyone must realize that in the end all parties will sit at the same table. The United States, the superpower, sat down with Vietnam. In the final analysis, the Palestinian issue will not be solved with words or through telephone calls and letters. Let us be pragmatic and practical. Let us face facts.

AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM: Do you intend to meet with King Husayn in Cairo shortly?

President Mubarak, laughingly: You yourself heard His Majesty King Husayn speaking to us on the telephone few minutes ago.

AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM: The president did indeed receive a telephone call from King Husayn of Jordan during our interview. They held a conversation right in front of us.

President Mubarak continues: He will come to Cairo shortly. We will hold consultations with his majesty. We had been scheduled to meet before the riots took place, but events made us postpone this meeting. The Jordanian monarch has been contacting us daily since the riots. The last one took place in your presence just a short while ago. I have friendly and fraternal ties with him. We cooperate for the sake of the common interests of our peoples and the Arab nation.

AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM: Your excellency was behind last November's Jordanian-Palestinian agreement. Jordan has finally abrogated the part of the agreement on coordination with the PLO. What do you intend to do in the wake of this decision? Some people say that the United States, Israel, and the Syrian-Jordanian rapproachement prompted King Husayn to invalidate this agreement.

President Mubarak: King Husayn of Jordan has a lot of experience. I believe that when he stopped contacts with the PLO, he did not intend to stop them for good. He simply wanted the PLO leadership to be sincere in its dealings with the Jordanian authorities. He wanted them to hold discussions and to reach practical and specific decisions that would start the negotiation process. Any prolongation in the negotiation period will only lead to a consolidation of the Israeli occupation. If we do not make a move now, I fear that we will lose everything. I trust King Husayn in this regard. I also trust that the PLO appreciates these circumstances. I absolutely do not believe that King Husayn's decision was the result of a Jordanian-Syrian agreement. King Husayn has had a great deal of experience and he is a very shrewd politician.

AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM: Is there any possibility of holding an international conference on peace in the Middle East, in light of the current changes in the Arab arena? What are you asking from the Arab countries, with regard to the issue of peace.

President Mubarak: At present I cannot ask anything from the Arab countries. They are fragmented and dispersed. They are all waging conflicts, battles and slander campaigns against each other. The civilized world sees these, so, should we expect it to respect us? If we consider the Iraq-Iran war, we see an Arab country at war with Iran. Another Arab country allies itself with Iran against an Arab sister and all the Gulf states. Why does this happen? If an Arab country has distinguished relations with Iran, then this Arab country should mediate to stop the Iraq-Iran war and narrow the gap between the two warring parties, instead of escalating the tension and creating a setting for serious problems for our brothers in the Gulf. This is particularly true because these brothers are helping this Arab country that is aiding the aggression against the Iraqi territories. But this Arab country is using its relations with Iran to threaten the Arab brothers. This stand is not patriotic and is absolutely uncivilized. This sad situation is the result of Arab estrangement and fragmentation. It is shameful that the outside world constantly appeals to Arabs to agree among themselves, saying: You Arabs have to be in accord before you submit your problems to us. But the Arabs do not have the same views on anything, except, regrettably, on Egypt. They are all united against Egypt, which is still honoring its pledges and carrying out its Arab commitments, stressing that it will not use its weapons against any Arab country. Egypt does not harm anyone and does not exchange vituperations with any Arab country, as some are doing, because we believe in our Arabism and are concerned about the Arabs as much as about ourselves. In the end, only we will lose, if we do not agree.

AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM: Then your excellency is not expecting the convening of an international conference at present, amid this Arab fragmentation?

President Mubarak: Arab Divisions are not at all helping in holding a peace conference. Each Arab is working for his own interest. The Arab coutnries are dispersed and do not agree on a single word. This is the opposite of what is happening in the European arena, where Europeans are united in a cooperation council, despite their differences and opposing interests. Each month the council members all sit at one table. They find a common ground for dialogue, coordinate among themselves, and move forward. The African countries act in a similar fashion. They are bound together by the OAU, despite their problems. The OAU meets annually to coordiante among the Africans and to find solutions to their troubles. An African country can mediate to solve a dispute between two other countries. Thus, all Africa's problems are eliminated and all its countries are united. But we Arabs are afraid of merely sitting down together, despite our resources and ties, which could turn us into an immense power, if we used them well. But we cannot act because of our fear of even meeting as a group. Arab estrangement and Arab differences remain the prevailing features among the brothers.

AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM: Some people say that Israel keeps 13 markers on the Egyptian-Israeli borders, in addition to Tabah. Egypt has not disclosed this fact in view of the small area taken up by these markers. How true is such talk?

President Mubarak, laughing: Where is the problem in the 13 markers to which they refer? The dispute over some of these markers is 60 square centimeters; sometimes it is only 20 square centimeters. The largest area of dispute does not exceed 1 or 2 meters. The basic problem is represented in Tabah. The issue involving the other markers is very simple. Anyone who exaggerates the dispute over these markers on the Egyptian-Israeli borders knows nothing. We are holding discussions with Israel about these markers, which absolutely do not represent any problem.

AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM: Mr President, despite Israel's attempts to convene an Egyptian-Israeli summit since the Likud era, and even during the Labor Party era, you have refused and continue to refuse to convene one. You also refuse to visit Israel. Will you continue to insist on your stand, and what are your reasons for doing so?

President Mubarak: Let me ask which of the Arab states is not in contact with Israel? Is Israel a state or not? Are we going to think like we have in the past about throwing Israel into the sea? Israel exists. However, I have not yet met with Israeli Prime Minister Peres because of the conditions that have been set before such a meeting can take place. I am ready to meet with him if we draw up a paper on arbitration for the Tabah issue, if we specify a committee and its duration, and if we actually go to arbitration. I have observed that Peres is demonstrating a certain amount of flexibility, and we are trying to obtain more. I repeat that Israel exists and contacts with it will serve Arab interests as a whole and not ours alone. We have regained our land. We must be realistic. Who can eradicate Israel when the two superpowers guarantee its survival? Who can throw it into the sea? The fact that Arab countries direct all their curses and insults at Egypt alone is a matter for ridicule. No one is able to direct a portion of these insults and curses at Israel, let alone the secret contacts undertaken with Israel on the sidelines. We in Egypt act overtly, while others hold covert contacts with Israel.

AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM: Mr President, how do you envisage U.S. credibility with regard to peace in the Middle East in light of recent developments and the contradictory U.S. stands regarding them?

President Mubarak: Why should we talk about U.S. credibility before talking about Arab credibility? When the Arabs unify their ranks and stands, then we will be able to level blame at the Americans if they do not sincerely participate in solving the issue peacefully. It is regrettable that the ball is now in our court and we still cannot turn the situation in our favor. We must first solve our problems and coordinate our stands clearly without labyrinthine complexities, and then we can ask the Americans to demonstrate their credibility. What counts is that the intentions should be good.

AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM: Does your excellency see any change in the Soviet role, particularly in light of Gorbachev's new policy and the change in the policies of some Arab states toward the Soviet Union? Could this reflect on Egyptian-Soviet relations?

President Mubarak: I have said repeatedly that we have excellent relations with the United States. We receive aid from it and we cooperate in the military and economic fields. These relations are very good and clear. They are similar to the relations that exist between India and the Soviet Union. As a Third World state, we must benefit from the richer countries in order to develop our economy. However, I cannot disregard the other superpower. We have relations, including trade relations, with the Soviet Union. I antagonize no one except those who are hostile to Egypt.

AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM: Your excellency has proposed that West Europe make a move with regard to peace in the Middle East. How do you view the European reaciton to this proposal? When do you expect Europe to act upon it, bearing in mind that Western delegations coming here from Europe only seem to agree on the conclusion of trade transactions?

President Mubarak: The proposal I made had a great effect in Western Europe. The Europeans formed a committee to study this proposal and to discuss its possible implementation. Europe has interests in the Middle East; it is not exclusively concerned with securing trade deals. It wants to have an influence on solving the Middle East problem in cooperation with the United States, for it realizes that its interests will prosper if this problem is solved. The initiative has gained a great deal of momentum and is proceeding along the correct path.

AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM: Your excellency, the Iraq-Iran war has taken a new turn following the Iranian invasion of the Al-Faw peninsula. The security of the Gulf is now threatened. What is the situation in detail?

President Mubarak: This situation makes me very sad. I am also saddened by the fact that some Arab states have openly allied themselves with Iran against Iraq. I ask: What has become of the joint Arab defense agreement vis-a-vis the Iraq-iran war?

I believe that this agreement was merely talk. The Arabs always refer to it, but when the time came to implement it nothing was done. We support and defend Iraq and we wish we could mediate between the two states. What concerns us is that peace, stability, amity, and fraternity should prevail among Arab and Islamic states.

AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM: Continuing along the same lines, your excellency, what role would Egypt play if a Gulf state became exposed to danger?

President Mubrak: Egypt's stand in this regard is known and clear. Such an issue cannot be debated openly in this venue.

AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM: There are conflicting views on the reality of the Egyptian support for Iraq. Some claim that Egyptian Army battalions are fighting on the Iraqi front, while others speak of the presence of Egyptian experts and advisers there, and still another group says that Egypt supports Iraq with weapons, ammunition, and spare parts. What is the truth?

President Mubarak: These are mere efforts for Iraq. I have repeatedly emphasized that we have not sent and will not send an army to Iraq. The Iraqi forces are capable and need no external assistance in the war. We have absolutely no forces in Iraq. However, some Egyptians, who have completed their military service, went to work in Iraq. President Saddam Husayn told me this himself.

AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM: Following the recent events in Egypt and the fact that most of the Arab states — leaders, people, and press — are supportive, do you believe that the atmosphere is right for repairing the Egyptian-Arab rift?

President Mubarak: This is a matter that lies in the hands of the Arabs themselves; Egypt is their country. If they want to solve the problems and end the differences, then they are welcome to do so. We do not have any disputes with the Arabs. We have regained our territory and have not disavowed the Palestinian issue, but have remained loyal to it. We have never killed Palestinians. Rather, we are doing all we can to use our relations with the United States, the Soviet Union, Europe, and the other forces to help them regain their rights.

AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM: Your excellency the president, Syria and Libya clearly are supporting Iran against Arab and fraternal Iraq. The Arab League is not facing this in the same way that it opposed Egypt over the Camp David agreements. What is the reason for this different approach, in your excellency's opinion?

President Mubarak, releasing a deep sigh: The reason is that we do not intimidate or frighten anyone. Let me ask: What has Egypt done to the Arab states? Has it abused an Arab state? Has it waged war against an Arab state? Has it fought an Arab state? Has it supported one Arab state against another? Nothing of this sort has ever happened or will ever happen. As for the Arab League's attitude, why not ask it?

AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM: Mr President, in your speech you said that there is no alternative to democracy and no going back on it. This proves your belief in democracy. How do you view the demands by some people for more democracy and for the cancellation of emergency laws?

President Mubarak (astonished): More democracy! I challenge those who are calling for this to show that they have not obtained freedom and democracy since the time of the monarchy.

In the past, newspapers used to be seized and deputies used to be dismissed from the Senate by a royal decree. No one dared to speak about the royal family and anyone who did so was imprisoned. Now people criticize everything. Nevertheless, I agree with them. There must be more democracy, but only after we have absorbed what is currently available to us. If we allow democracy all at once, then we will not be able to absorb it. As a result, we may even suffer a setback that will affect democracy's march. On this basis, we are proceeding toward full democracy step by step.

As for the emergency laws, I will not resort to them. I could have implemented them during the recent disturbances. However, despite the difficult circumstances faced by the country that would have justified turning to these emergency laws, I did not resort to them. I want to provide an example to the people, to give every citizen assurance about his life, property, and institutions. Only ordinary law will be applied through the public prosecution office and the courts. This is democracy.

AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM: Your excellency the president, at the conclusion of this dialogue, we would like to say that the Arabs look upon Egypt as the pulsating heart of Arabism and its bastion. Regardless of how much we may differ on the means, there is no disagreement on this perspective. Consequently, the Egyptian Army is of special importance to the Arab world. How do you view the future of this Army, and what is the extent of its preparedness and strength?

President Mubarak: The Egyptian Army is well, praise be to God. We are continually arming it and modernizing its weapons and ammunition to ensure that it will always be a strong army capable of carrying out its duties.

'Abd al-'Aziz al-Masa'id, the editor-in-chief of the Kuwaiti newspaper *AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM*, who conducted this interview with President Mubarak, first introduced him and then praised his capability and wisdom in handling the recent events in his country. He said that President Mubarak was able to succeed in his mission by relying on the people's desire to safeguard and defend their homeland. He was also able to rely on overwhelming popular support from the Egyptian people despite their various tendencies and sects.

In his introduction of President Mubarak, Al-Masa'id said that he had faced the huge challenges and responsibilities with all the courage of the fighter who had been commander of the Egyptian Air Force in 1973. Despite the burdens of reconstructing what has been destroyed and damaged by deviationist and treacherous hands during the recent rioting in Egypt, President Mubarak has opened his heart and mind to the *AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM* paper and answered the questions raised by its editor-in-chief.

Lutfi, Murphy Discuss Peace, Bilateral Relations

NC111323 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] At his meeting today with Richard Murphy, the U.S. President's envoy to the Middle East, Prime Minister Dr 'Ali Lutfi discussed developments in the region, ways of giving an impetus to the peace process, and bilateral relations.

Dr 'Ali Lutfi referred to Egypt's efforts to advance the peace process, to reconcile the various parties so that an international conference may be held, and to encourage productive investments. He also spoke of the economic reform program and the government's subsidies for those on limited incomes.

Richard Murphy expressed the U.S. Administration's appreciation of Egyptian policy under the leadership of President Husni Mubarak. He also declared his government's support for Egypt's efforts to achieve progress. He said that his country has agreed to send the sum of $150 million in cash to Egypt as additional aid. Murphy said that his country supports the economic reform plans being carried out by the Egyptian Government to achieve prosperity for the Egyptian people.

An agreement on U.S. investments in Egypt was signed today in the Cabinet office. Economy Minister Dr Sultan Abu 'Ali signed for Egypt and the American ambassador in Cairo signed on behalf of the United States. Richard Murphy attended the ceremony.

Murphy Leaves for Tel Aviv

NC111446 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1414 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Cairo, 11 Mar (MENA) — Richard Murphy, the U.S. President's envoy to the Middle East, and the delegation accompanying him, left Cairo for Tel Aviv this afternoon, following a 3-day visit to Egypt. During his visit, Murphy delivered a letter to President Muhammad Husni Mubarak from President Reagan. He also held talks with Prime Minister Dr 'Ali Lutfi and with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and Dr Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the Presidential Office for Foreign Affairs. The U.S. envoy's visit to Cairo is part of a Middle East tour that includes visits in Egypt, Israel, and Jordan.

Austrian Chancellor on Egypt, PLO, Peace Process

NC121142 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1115 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] Cairo, 12 Mar (MENA) — Austrian Chancellor Fred Sinowatz has stressed that Egypt under President Mubarak's leadership has a central and important role. He said: I am looking forward to meeting with President Mubarak to discuss the possibilities for peace in the Middle East and to work to promote bilateral relations.

In a statement to the Egyptian weekly magazine *AKHIR SA'AH*, Sinowatz said that there can be no just, permanent, and comprehensive solution in the region without Egypt. He reaffirmed Austria's position on the Middle East issue, which, he said, has not changed. Austria, he said, takes a firm and strong stand that can be described as insistence on the recognition of the Palestinian right to self-determination and the implementation of this right.

He pointed out that Austria believes that the PLO is the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. He asserted that there can be no peace in the region if the Palestinians and their representatives do not participate in the peace process.

Prime Minister Lutfi Interviewed on Tabah

TA070820 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 7 Mar 86 p 5

[Interview with Egyptian Prime Minister Dr 'Ali Lutfi by 'Uzi Mahanaymi — on 4 March in Lutfi's Cairo office]

[Excerpt][Mahanaymi] What are your expectations of the Tabah talks being held in Cairo?

[Lutfi] I have spoken with Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid and he believes that the problem will soon be solved. In my opinion, after 3 years Israel is willing to reach a solution to the problem. Tabah is a matter of principle. We are confident of being in the right, we have documents that prove it, and I am convinced that in the end Tabah will be returned to Egypt.

[Mahanaymi] In another few months Yitzhaq Shamir is scheduled to be prime minister. How do you see Israeli-Egyptian relations when this happens?

[Lutfi] These are internal Israeli affairs and Egypt is not in the habit of intervening in other countries' domestic affairs. The problem is neither Peres nor Shamir; Egypt's concern is its rights and interests, and it will insist on them whether Shim'on Peres or Yitzhaq Shamir is prime minister.

[Mahanaymi] Has a date been set for a summit meeting between President Husni Mubarak and Prime Minister Peres?

[Lutfi] No date whatsoever has yet been set for such a meeting.

[Mahanaymi] What is the Egyptian position on the PLO issue, in view of the current rift between that organization and Jordan?

[Lutfi] Egypt is trying to bring about a coordination of positions between Jordan and the Palestinians. Today, too, Egypt regards the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

When we signed the peace agreement in 1979, I had the opportunity to be a member of the Egyptian delegation. We intended to bring about a full, permanent peace that would be of benefit not only to the area, but to world peace.

Delegations Leave for Israel

NC112202 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2130 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Cairo, 11 Mar (MENA) — The Egyptian delegation to the Tabah talks left Cairo for Tel Aviv this evening. Ambassador Nabil al-'Arabi, director of the Foreign Ministry Legal Department is leading this delegation. The Egyptian-Israeli-U.S. talks to define the terms of reference for arbitration on the Tabah issue will begin tomorrow in Herzliyya, near Tel Aviv. Moshe Sason, the Israeli ambassador in Cairo, left on the same plane to join the Israeli delegation to the talks.

GDR Delegation Departs After 4-day Visit

NC111938 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1816 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Cairo, 11 Mar (MENA) — The GDR delegation led by Egon Hempel, GDR deputy minister of heavy machine and equipment construction, left Cairo this evening following a 4-day visit to Egypt at the invitation of Dr Sultan Abu 'Ali, minister of economy and foreign trade.

During his visit, Hempel attended the inauguration of the Cairo International Fair. He also held talks with Dr Kamal Ahmad al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and minister of planning and international cooperation; Dr Sultan abu 'Ali; Minister of Industry Eng Muhammad Mahmud 'Abd al-Wahhab; and Minister of Housing engineer 'Abd al-Rahman Labib. They discussed ways to increase bilateral cooperation in various areas. The GDR charge d'affairs in Cairo saw the German delegation off.

Soviet Officials To Begin 1-Week Visit 18 Mar

NC111642 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1545 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Cairo, 11 Mar (MENA) — A 5-member Soviet delegation, led by Pavel Gilashvili, deputy chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, will arrive in Cairo 18 March for a 1-week visit at the invitation of the People's Assembly. This is in response to an August 1985 trip to the USSR by a People's Assembly delegationheaded by Dr Muhammad 'Abdallah, chairman of the Committee for Foreign Affairs.

Gilashvili and his group are scheduled to meet with People's Assembly Speaker Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub, Consultative Council Speaker Dr Subhi 'Abd al-Hakim, Prime Minister 'Ali Lutfi, and Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and food security.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iran

Khark Island Attacked 11 Mar

JN111533 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1517 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Since early today our giant Air Force, as is its custom, has been imposing its superiority in the air and has been pouring hellish fire on the Khomeyniite rogues, sowing death and destruction among their ranks, destroying their military hardware and weapons, and depriving them of their resources so they will receive the punishment they deserve.

Our planes carried out a fierce raid on Khark Island facilities at 1538 [1238 GMT] today, hitting their targets and setting them ablaze. After carrying out their duty, the brave eagles safely returned with their planes to the homeland, protected by God.

[Dated] 11 March 1986

AFP: Troops Advance Toward Al-Faw

HK120138 Hong Kong AFP in English 0054 GMT 12 Mar 86

[By Pierre Keuroglian]

[Text] Near Al-Faw, Iraq, March 12 (AFP) — Iraqi troops were fighting Tuesday eight kilometres (five miles) from this southeast Iraqi port, occupied by the Iranian Army for the past month.

Foreign correspondents brought here by the Iraqi Army were taken to within a kilometre (just over half a mile) of the battle going on around a major Iraqi tar factory and were able to watch it through binoculars.

The two sides, backed up by long-range heavy artillery, had been fighting here since dawn, an officer commanding one of the Iraqi units said.

The Iraqi Army claims to have advanced six kilometres (three and a half miles) since launching a counter-offensive against Iran a month ago.

Colonel Abdel Jabbar Mohrsen, head of the Iraqi Defence Ministry's information branch, said the Army had captured several advanced Iranian positions and was now dug in 11 kilometres (seven miles) from Al-Faw.

The advance on the port was being made from the north, centre and south, he said. Troops advancing from the centre and south were now 50 kilometres (30 miles) apart and would soon meet up, while the situation to the north was also under control.

Colonel Jabbar said the counter-offensive began on February 10 with the Iraqi Army stopping the Iranian push along the Al-Fawpeninsula before starting their advance on the port.

He explained that progress was slow because assault tanks could not tackle the swampy terrain.

"We have already managed to cut off all supplies to the 20,000 Iranian soldiers in Al-Faw, thanks to the intervention of our Navy and Air Force," the colonel said.

Iraqi fighter-bombers and helicopters equipped with rocket launchers had made 8,000 raids on Iranian troops in the sector in the past month.

He said Iraq had lost eight planes in the fighting while the other side had lost 12 during 2,000 similar raids.

"We think Al-Faw will fall before our troops get there because the Iranians will evacuate their troops as soon as all their advanced positions on the peninsula fail," Colonel Jabbar said.

He added that the Iraqi Navy was in "total control" of the northern gulf after repelling an Iranian naval attack launched from the Iranian port of Bandar-e 'Abbas two days previously.

Foreign correspondents heard long-range cannon fire aimed at Iranian troops from Basra, 30 kms (18 miles) from Al-Faw, throughout Monday night. The cannons have a range of 27 to 32 kilometres (17 to 20 miles). An Iraqi artillery officer said the Iranians had been returning fire from the Abadan region of south-west Iran. The journalists were driven the 520 kms (325) miles from Baghdad to Basra Monday, with no sign of fighting on the way.

Just outside Basra, dozens of tents put up by civilian volunteers greet Iraqi soldiers going to and from the front. The volunteers hand out drinks and snacks while young women offer to write to the soldiers' families or pass on oral messages.

Radio Tehran, monitored in Paris, said an Iraqi helicopter was shot down by Iranian forces Tuesday in south-eastern Iraq.

The radio also quoted the Army as saying that Iranian planes had bombed Iraq troops between Al-Faw and Basra, destroying dozens of positions and inflicting "heavy losses".

Iranian F-4 Downed 11 March

JN120609 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0601 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Mar (INA) — Iraqi air defenses downed an Iranian F-4 fighter plane yesterday afternoon when it attempted to penetrate the Iraqi border on the VII Army Corps front. In a statement to INA at dawn today, a military source said the plane was seen failling inside Iranian territory. The source said the plane was downed at 1400 [1100 GMT] yesterday.

Communique 2,145

JN111812 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Communique No 2,145 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 11 March 1986]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassioante. Our valiant Armed Forces are proceeding with their plan to destroy the enemy forces and to purge the land. Our triumphant forces will implement the great people's decision to deal the coup de grace to the aggressor remnants and make them an example to all those who seek to harm the people's security and sovereignty or obstruct their development. The heavy losses the Khomeyniites have so far sustained will be doubled in future days until we remove all the tools of aggression from the criminal hands, wrench the evil designs from the Khomeyniites' minds, exorcise their hearts of evil spirits, and then leave them powerless to face the will of justice and peace.

The following is a roundup of activities for yesterday evening and today:

1. On the VII Army Corps front:

The heroic Al-Rashid Forces carried out a series of offensives against enemy positions in the central and coastal axes yesterday and last night. With determination and courage, the heroic Al-Rashid Forces liberated several positions. Our forces immediately started to entrench the liberated positions. The enemy sustained heavy losses in lives and equipment and its forces fled, leaving their weapons in the battlefield. Our forces in the Al-Rashid column continued to put pressure on the enemy supported by our Air Force, Navy, the helicopter gunships force, and our tank regiments.

In the northern column, the frustrated enemy tried to carry out an offensive against one of our positions. Our brave men, using all types of weapons and backed by intensive artillery fire, aborted the enemy offensive, destroying the bulk of the attacking force and forcing the rest to flee. Blessed be the hands of the men. Proceed forward for further victories.

2. Since early today our giant Air Force, as is its custom, has been imposing its superiority in the air and has been pouring hellish fire on the Khomeyniite rogues, sowing death and destruction among their ranks, destroying their military hardware and weapons, and depriving them of their resources so they will receive the punishment they deserve. The brave eagles carried out 341 air raids. Our planes also carried out a fierce raid on Khark Island facilities at 1538 today, hitting their targets and setting them ablaze. After carrying out all their duties, they safely returned with their planes to the homeland, protected by God.

3. In line with the victories our valiant Armed Forces are scoring against our unjust enemies, the brave helicopter gunship knights also assumed a heroic role in offering the best support to our ground units in order to liberate the land and sow terror among enemy ranks and destruction upon their military hardware and weapons. They carried out 194 combat sorties today, after which they safely returned with their helicopters to base, praise be to God.

4. As long as the ignorant Iranian rulers continue to follow the road of evil, we will continue to chase them in order to destroy all the means they use to carry out aggression against our pure soil. Embodying the heroic role of our naval force, the brave sea lions dealt an accurate and effective blow to a very large maritime target near the Iranian coast at 0329 today. After carrying out their duty, the sea lions safely returned to base.

5. Our heroic formations in the sectors of operation, using artillery, tanks, mortars, and other weapons, continued to deal intensive blows to enemy positions achieving the following:

a. In the III Army Corps sector east of the Tigris, 12 enemy soldiers were killed and the enemy was seen evacuating its dead, 8 positions were destroyed and their occupants were killed, 1 self-propelled gun was destroyed, and 1 vehicle and 1 machinegun position were also destroyed.

b. In the I Army Corps northern sector, 8 enemy soldiers were killed and 5 vehicles, 11 infantry positions, 2 106 mm guns, 1 excavator, and 1 ammunition dump were destroyed and 1 excavator and 1 bulldozer were damaged.

c. Ten enemy soldiers were either killed or wounded and three rafts were destroyed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris. Four enemy soldiers were also killed in the IV Army Corps east of Maysan.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 11 March 1986

Al-Rifa'i Receives Syrian Assembly Speaker

JN111313 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Amman — Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i received Syrian People's Assembly Speaker Mahmud al-Zu'bi accompanied by Shakir Sa'id, head of the assembly's foreign relations committee, in his office this morning. The meeting was attended by the Syrian charge d'affaires in Amman.

SAWT AL-SHA'B Highlights King's Speech

JN120851 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 12 Mar 86

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "On Jordan's Basic Principles," *SAWT AL-SHA'B* says: Jordan will not be a trustee for the Palestinian people or a substitute for the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, in accordance with its commitment to the Arab summit resolutions, especially the resolutions of the Rabat and Fes summits of 1974 and 1982.

These are basic principles in Jordan's policy which guide us on the Jordanian, pan-Arab, and international levels, and to which we resort whether the Arab situation is as it is now or if this situation is to surmount the state of internal fragmentation and collapse and external attempts against it.

Nevertheless, in view of its direct link to the occupied Palestinian territory and pan-Arab responsibility, Jordan will continue to play the role of helper and supporter for the Palestinian people in the occupied territory within the limits of its capabilities so long as it does not conflict with its national security, which is an indivisible part of pan-Arab security.

By this new affirmation, King Husayn wanted to emphasize to the Arab nation's representatives the passive Arab stand toward an enemy who works on three fronts to destroy the pan-Arab identity in the absence of a unified Arab stand and action — a passive stand which would cause further collapse in the one Arab body.

SAWT AL-SHA'B adds: This is why His Majesty King Husayn revealed facts to his people a few weeks ago and, on this basis, King Husayn addressed the Arab nation's representatives yesterday, calling for a constructive, democratic pan-Arab dialogue in a serious attempt to translate the Arab political concept and pan-Arab ideas into a firm policy and a unified action which will bring us closer to our common objectives of developing the Arab homeland, safeguarding the pan-Arab identity, and protecting pan-Arab security from internal and external sedition.

King Husayn's address to the fourth Arab Parliamentary Union [APU] conference was a pan-Arab occasion, especially since the APU is one of two highest Arab institutions which possess the potential and ability to open a constructive dialogue among all Arab brothers in order to expand the base of dialogue, harmony, reconciliation, and agreement.

Concluding, *SAWT AL-SHA'B* says: Yesterday, we said that King Husayn's speech and political viewpoint will be a document that must be taught to coming generations. King Husayn's brilliance and clarity always bring something new and stress that the danger will continue to exist so long as we will remain fragmented and resort to more than one viewpoint and idea.

Further on French Hostage Negotiations; Seurat

Al-Jumayyil, Boisdevaix Talk

NC111739 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1630 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Serge Boisdevaix, deputy secretary general at the French Ministry of External Relations, continued his contacts with Lebanese officials today in a bid to secure the release of four French journalists and the other French hostages. Boisdevaix, accompanied by the French ambassador to Lebanon, visited President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil at noon today. They discussed the French envoy's mission. Boisdevaix declined to comment on the nature of his talks with the president.

It should be recalled that a French television team arrived in Beirut from Larnaca at 1000 to replace the crew that was kidnapped last Saturday.

In a related development, press reports indicate that Razzah Ra'd, the French physician of Lebanese origin who is negotiating with the kidnappers, left a hotel in Beirut for an unknown destination at noon today. Dr Ra'd had said that he was waiting for a call from the kidnappers to begin negotiations.

Ra'd in 'Last Chance' Negotiations

NC112105 Paris AFP in English 2051 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Excerpts] Beirut, March 11 (AFP) — French envoy Dr. Razzah Ra'd Tuesday launched what he called "last chance negotiations" here with the kidnappers of four Frenchmen whose lives were put in jeopardy by France's expulsion to Baghdad of two Iraqi dissidents. "Either they work or they fail and then it'll be a catastrophe," said Lebanese-born Dr. Ra'd before heading for Beirut's mainly Shiite southern suburb to meet the Islamic Jihad fundamentalists holding the hostages.

He told journalists that as soon as he had heard in Damascus that three photographs had been given to a news agency here apparently showing the body of French hostage Michel Seurat, 38, who was kidnapped 10 months ago: "I cancelled my other meetings with the Syrian authorities and came straight here."

Meanwhile, the French weekly magazine *CANARD ENCHAINE* reported that French President Francois Mitterrand had twice rejected the resignation of Interior Minister Pierre Joxe over the imbroglio and that Mr. Joxe's aides did not rule out that the expulsion was an internal sabotage.

The Islamic Jihad organization said it had executed researcher Michel Seurat, 38, and threatened to kill a second one next Sunday if France did not recover the two Iraqis. Mr. Seurat's body has not been found and informed sources said its handover would be part of the negotiations.

Mr. Seurat's wife, Mary Seurat, Monday blamed the French Government for his death, claiming that Paris had failed to take action to save his life and comparing Mr. Joxe with the kidnappers. She said Mr. Joxe had had her husband "assassinated" and should have resigned "if he had the slightest self-respect."

Denise Carton, wife of kidnapped French diplomat Marcel Carton, also attacked the French Government and predicted "a catastrophe" if negotiations are not conducted "effectively." She said Paris knew that the kidnappers wanted the release of Mr. Bahktiar's attackers and said that "one shouldn't let Frenchmen be killed for terrorists."

Birri, Boisdevaix Discuss Hostages

NC121230 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] Nabih Birri, minister of state for the south and reconstruction affairs, today met with French envoy Serge Boisdevaix and French Charge d'Affaires Marcel Laugel. The talks dealt with the issue of the kidnapped persons, particularly the Frenchmen, and the contacts taking place in this regard.

Minister Birri also discussed the matter of the kidnapped Korean diplomat with the ROK ambassador in Lebanon.

According to reports today, French envoy Dr Razzah Ra'd conferred with Ulema Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah this morning on the question of the French hostages. The reports said that Dr Ra'd then resumed his talks with representatives of the Islamic Jihad organization.

Fadlallah Urges Hostage Release

NC120842 Paris AFP in English 0831 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] Beirut, March 12 (AFP) — One of Lebanon's top Shi'ite Moslem religious leaders, Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, called on Wednesday for the release of four French television journalists taken hostage on Saturday.

Shaykh Fadlallah, seen as the spiritual figurehead of the pro-Iranian Hizballah (Party of God), said: "We have stated more than once that we are against the principle of kidnapping Lebanese or foreign citizens, and particularly journalists, who we should help in their task to inform, whatever the negative aspects may be.

"This is why we consider this act (the journalists' kidnapping) unjustifiable," he said in a statement.

The four journalists were kidnapped after attending a Hizballah meeting in South-West Beirut. A caller purporting to represent the extremist Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for the kidnapping of the television crew, but a statement from Islamic Jihad, which holds another group of Frenchmen, has denied this.

AL-NAHAR on Ra'd Mission

NC111259 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 10 Mar 86 p8

[Excerpt] Early on Sudnay, 9 March, the French authorities decided to dispatch the Lebanese-born French mediator, Dr Razzah Ra'd to Syria and Lebanon. It is understood that this decision was made following discussions between the Elysee, Hotel Mignon, and Quai d'Orsay. French Foreign Minister

Roland Dumas telephoned Dr Ra'd to inform him of the government's decision in the early hours of yesterday, Sunday, after having received the green light from President Mitterrand.

What is Ra'd's task and what message does he have to convey? *AL-NAHAR* has learned that the French Government has made no disclosures about the nature of Ra'd's mission. They do not wish to appear to be giving in to the demands of the kidnappers. However, Ra'd goes to Damascus and Beirut with the unofficial backing of the French Government.

Ra'd has a double task:

1. To act as liaison between the official French envoys sent to the area. These are: Henri Servant, the roving Middle East ambassador who arrived in Damascus on 8 March; Serge Boisdevaix, deputy secretary general at the foreign ministry, who arrived in Beirut on 9 March; and a French envoy to Baghdad whose identity has not been revealed.

2. To draw up an outline for a settlement, incorporating various ideas which, a well-informed source has told *AL-NAHAR*, Ra'd has been authorized to propose. These suggestions, with some final touches that can be added after the preliminary outcome of the envoy's mission is known, would be presented to the kidnappers.

Doctor Ra'd accepted the mission only on condition that the French authorities would provide him with the practical means of convincing the kidnappers to reach a deal satisfactory to both sides.

The most important points of this deal are:

1. An official French pledge to reduce the prison sentences of members of the group accused of attempting to assassinate former Iranian prime minister Shahpur Baktiar in Paris. The proposed reduction is up to 7 years, but Ra'd is authorized to try to keep the reduction in their sentences to 5 years.

2. Safeguards from the Iraqi Government concerning the lives of the two Iraqi opposition figures, who were extradited a few days ago, and their right to a fair trial. In this connection, the French foreign ministry yesterday announced that the French ambassador in Baghdad had met the two Iraqis and found them to be safe and sound.

3. Guarantees by Syria, the country that will be sponsoring the agreement, that the French Government will honor its obligations if the Frenchmen are released.

According to the same source, there are two major obstacles to a settlement on these lines. One is that the Iranian authorities have so far declined to receive the French envoy to Tehran, Marc Honnefous, who is the director for Near Eastern affairs at the French foreign ministry, even though Iran initially approved his mission. The second obstacle is that the kidnappers are insisting that the two extradited Iraqis be returned to France, from where they should be allowed to travel to a country of their choice, for example, Lebanon, Syria, Libya, or any other country.

Papal Envoy, Delegation Leaves for Damascus

NC111450 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1400 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Papal envoy Msgr Achille Silvestrini, Patriarch Maximus V Hakim, Monsignor Giatti, and the papal nuncio in Lebanon left Bkirki for Damascus aboard a military helicopter at 1510 today. During his visit, Silvestrini will hold talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and other senior Syrian officials on the Lebanese crisis. The members of the papal delegation are expected to return to Beirut on Thursday.

Syrian Intelligence Chief Arrives in Tripoli

NC111524 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, chief of the intelligence branch of the Syrian Forces in Lebanon, arrived in Tripoli today. Kan'an will hold talks with the city functionaries and will take the necessary steps to establish security in the northern capital. Kan'an's visit follows up on the talks that Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, leader of the Islamic Unification Movement, held last week in Damascus.

Hizballah, Syrian Forces Clash in Ba'labakk

NC121130 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1115 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] According to a reort by the internal security forces in Ba'labakk, a security problem occurred there at 1000 between the Hizballah organization and the Syrian forces. The situation led to an exchange of fire taking place. The reasons behind the problem were not clear.

Shaykh Faqih Assassinated, Aide Wounded

NC111205 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1150 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] We learned a short while ago that Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz Faqih has been shot dead by unidentified persons. The assassination took place in the vicinity of Al-Shahrur restaurant, opposite the Hamadah Palace, on the airport road, as the victim was passing through the area. The body was taken to the AUB Private Clinic. Shaykh Faqih's aide was seriously wounded.

Sailing of U.S. Warships for Mediterranean Noted

JN120719 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] Washington — The U.S. aircraft carrier *America* has left the United States for the Mediterranean Sea escorted by 10 warships. The aircraft carrier will be on a tour of 6 months during which it will carry out new provocative maneuvers off the Libyan coast.

The aircraft carrier, which weighs 90,000 tons, is escorted by a frigate, a missile cruiser, and several supply ships. U.S. sources said that several other ships have left Charleston, South Carolina, and Newport, Florida [as heard], to join this fleet of ships in preparation for the new U.S. maneuvers which will take place in 10 days.

U.S. Mideast Declarations Mask Intent of Reagan Plan

JN111241 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Station commentary]

[Text] It may look impressive at first glance when Washington declares its concern over any tension in the Middle East region. The statements issued by Washington may also look as if they are earnest and stem from a sense of responsibility, contrary to the impression given by the statement by Defense Secretary Weinberger, who also expressed concern over the mounting tension between Syria and Israel. However, a perusal of the Weinberger statement leads us to something different from the picture that caused U.S. concern.

The U.S. secretary did not forget to link the U.S. Administration's concern with its regret over everything hindering the Reagan plan announced 1 September 1982. An analysis of the U.S. position on this subject clearly shows the United States' sole concern at present is to promote its settlement plan, which reflects the U.S. formula for the second part of the Camp David accords dealing with the Palestine question.

The U.S. formula does not differ in substance from Begin's autonomy plan. The only exception is that the U.S. formula tries to include new Arab parties in direct negotiations with Israel on the basis of the Camp David accords. This means that the U.S. position is the same as the Israeli position. Therefore, Washington's concern does not stem from Israel's aggressive policy and noncommitment to the UN resolutions which call upon it to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories and to recognize the national rights of the Palestinian people, but from the Camp David partners' inability to revive the U.S. settlement plan and to include other Arab sides, especially in wake of the armed popular uprising in Egypt which nearly placed the Egyptian regime on the path of collapse.

Therefore, the American concern over the mounting tension in the region should, in fact, be added to Israel's threat campaign against Syria. This campaign has taken different forms, beginning with the attempt to hold Syria responsible for the hardships faced by the Zionist invaders in southern Lebanon due to Syrian support for the Lebanese resistance and ending with concern over Syria's increasing military strength, which Israel considers a source of threat because it provides Syria with the appropriate means to liberate the occupied Golan.

Amid these Israeli threats and the U.S. pretence of concern, the conflict in the region takes on different forms which could reach the danger point because of Washington's ignorance of the facts of the conflict, which was caused by Israel's expansionist policy and U.S. pursuance of a pro-Israeli policy in the Middle East against self-determination for the Palestinian people, the restoration of occupied Arab territories, and any serious international effort to achieve just and lasting peace in the region on the basis of the UN resolutions and Charter.

Papal Envoy Silvestrini Arrives; Met by Al-Shar'

JN111552 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Damascus — Papal envoy Monsignor Achille Silvestrini arrived in Damascus at 1700 today on a visit to Syria. He was received at the airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Sulayman Haddad, director of the West Europe Department of the Foreign Ministry. He was also received by Misbah al-Dalati, director of protocol at the Foreign Ministry; the Vatican ambassador in Damascus; and the embassy staff.

Begins Talks With Al-Shar'

JN111859 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Damascus — A round of official talks began between Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Papal envoy Monsignor Achille Silvestrini at the Foreign Ministry this evening. The talks were attended by Sulayman Haddad, director of the West Europe Department of the Foreign Ministry; Vatican Ambassador to Syria Nicola Rotunno; and the members of the Vatican delegation. The talks dealt with the current situation in the Lebanese arena.

Talks on Lebanon With Kaddam

JN120855 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0850 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] Damascus, 12 Mar (SANA) — Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received Papal envoy Monsignor Achille Silvestrini and his delegation at 1000 today. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the Papal ambassador in Damascus attended the meeting. The talks dealt with the situation in Lebanon.

Delivers Papal Message to Al-Asad

JN121151 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Papal envoy Monsignor Achille Silvestrini and his delegation at 1200 today. Silvestrini conveyed to the president a message from Pope John Paul II.

Al-Shar' Receives Polish Council of State Deputy

JN111207 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Damascus — Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Tadeusz Szelachowski, Polish deputy chairman of the Council of State, and his accompanying delegation at 1100 today. The Polish ambassador in Damascus attended the meeting. The talks dealt with bilateral relations, the means of promoting them, the situation in the region, and issues of common interest.

TISHRIN Supports Al-Asad on Strategic Balance

JN120926 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0730 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] Damascus, 12 Mar (SANA) — The newspaper *TISHRIN* says: When President Hafiz al-Asad explained before the People's Assembly the meaning of strategic balance and the need for this balance to cover all walks of life, he was in fact pointing to the sound means of successfully confronting the enemy.

In a comment under the headline "The Strategic Balance and the Enemy's Anxiety", *TISHRIN* adds: The strategic balance slogan and the actual achievement of this balance is a source of clear concern to the enemy.

TISHRIN says: If Syria directs its attention to the Golan Heights issue and prepares to achieve strategic balance for this purpose, it does not ignore the other Arab territories, Palestine and Sinai.

TISHRIN continues: The Arab cause is an indivisible whole and our conflict with the enemy is a fateful one which must end with a victor and a vanquished. The victor will be the Arab nation which has confronted invaders and destroyed aggressors' armies throughout history. The usurpation of Palestine is within the framework of invasions which the Arab homeland has been exposed to and over which it will achieve victory.

Concluding, *TISHRIN* says: The enemy's warnings and concerns will not change Syria's efforts to achieve the strategic balance, because it is a guarantee for the Arab nation to deter its enemies.

Peres: Efforts Underway To Get Jews out of Syria

TA111729 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres says that diplomatic activity is underway, through France and the United States, to get the 4,000 Jews in Syria out of that country. In a lecture in Ashdod, Mr Peres said that the Damascus authorities are continuing to impede efforts to allow the Jews to leave.

Rabin on Need for Alert in View of Al-Asad Remarks

TA111223 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has said that the Syrian president's aggressive talk demands that we forestall a war we do not want. He claims it is difficult to determine with any precision whether the statements were aimed at the domestic scene or a call to arms. Our correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that Minister Rabin told the members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that Israel's deployment is encumbered by budgetary constraints.

Rabin, Goren Brief Knesset Defense Committee

TA111803 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Today Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin briefed the members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee on the situation along the Syrian border. Minister Rabin said Israel must be alert to the possibility of Syrian aggression. The coordinator of activities in the territories, Shmu'el Goren, described the murder of Zafir al-Masri in Nabulus as the gravest political murder in the territories since 1967. Our correspondent Gil Ronen reports from the Knesset.

[Ronen] Today the defense minister told the members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee what they were told last week by the prime minister: The situation on the Syrian border is worrisome and requires alertness. President al-Asad has made two aggressive speeches, although in general his speeches are known to be cautious and calculated. Israel has a principal interest in preventing war, but of course it must also be alert to the possibility. The defense minister spoke again about the blow dealt to the IDF by the defense budget cuts. Shevah Weiss, Alignment, answered him on this: If you think you need an increased budget for deployment in the north, go to the Cabinet and demand it. Pinhas Goldstein, Likud, spoke about the danger inherent in Syria's serious economic situation.

In the debate on the latest incidents in Lebanon, the defense minister said he was convinced that the security strip is proving itself. The terrorists are trying to infiltrate Israel through the strip, he pointed out, and their activities are not aimed against the actual presence of the idf in the strip.

The coordinator of activities in the territories, Shmu'el Goren, was also present at the session. Goren described the murder of Al-Masri as the gravest political murder in the territories since 1967. Its significance is particularly grave, he said, because Al-Masri was a member of such a respectable family and because his appointment was made with the agreement of Jordan and with the knowledge of 'Arafat. Responding to a question by Amnon Linn as to why several mayors were not appointed simultaneously, Defense Minister Rabin answered: Perhaps we wanted this and they did not.

Yosi Sarid, Citizens Rights Movement, protested that the SHAS Knesset faction secretary, Arye Der'i, had received yet another postponement of his military service. The use of influence in the army is corrupting all its good points, he complained. Sarid also asked why, at a time of cuts, the IDF General Staff is larger than ever before. The defense minister replied: It is a matter of timing, and in the course of the year will return to its former size. He promised to look into the affair of Arye Der'i from SHAS.

Gen Baraq on 'Saber Rattling' From Damascus

TA110914 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 11 Mar 86 p 2

[ITIM report]

[Excerpt] "Syria is deploying its forces with the aim of imposing its views on the future of the Golan Heights from a position of power and under the appropriate conditions, namely, through use of force," said Ehud Baraq, the commander of the Central Command, at the annual meeting of the No'am religious college held at the Tel Aviv Mann Auditorium last night. The meeting was attended by approximately 3,000 people.

Baraq noted that the sound of saber rattling and threats of terrorism emanating from Damascus have recently increased. Jordan is caught between 'Arafat's evasiveness and the Syrian president's bear hug. The Palestinians, who are their own worst enemies, are pursuing their acts of terror while the Iraqis are bogged down in the quagmire of their war with Iran. "In light of this situation in which the Arabs have not yet reconciled themselves to the idea of our existence, security will continue to remain a serious problem and we will have to go on living with our swords drawn. The IDF's strength will continue to be the guarantee of our existence, and no one can vow that there will be no more wars," General Baraq said.

Golan Druze Protest 'Heavy-Handed' Policy

TA111220 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Excerpt] The Druze Initiative Committee claims that since the prime minister's visit to the Golan Heights and the demonstration against him by the local inhabitants, the government has been exercising a heavy-handed policy against the Druze residents of the Golan Heights and is harassing them in various ways. At a news conference called in Jerusalem today with the participation of Golan Druze, the committee rejected what it called Israel's attempts to annex the Golan and impose Israeli citizenship on the Syrian residents of the region.

[Begin recording by Golan Druze Sulayman Tahir al-Din] We came here to protest and explain what is happening on the Golan

Heights at the moment, the result of the ghetto policy imposed on Majdal Shams in particular, but also against all the inhabitants of the Golan Heights in general. The residents of the Golan Heights are part of the Arab-Syrian nation. In other words, they are Syrian Arabs living under Israeli conquest. [end recording]

Golan Druze Involved in Planning Acts of Terrorism

TA111228 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] A huge quantity of sabotage materials, some of which was intended for terror activity in Israel, was seized in the Galilee last year. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that the materials included 800 hand grenades, 200 mines, over 100 dynamite sticks, and nearly 3,000 detonators. At a rally of officers of the Galilee Police Subdistrict it was reported that most of the hand grenades and mines were seized from members of a Golan Druze group. The members of this group dug mines out of IDF minefields and hid them and other sabotage materials for the perpetration of terrorist acts. Those involved in the affair have been detained and will be brought to trial.

It was also reported at the rally that since the IDF left Lebanon, the number of terrorist acts and attempts in the north has significantly increased. Also, the number of arrests of drug dealers in the Galilee almost doubled last year.

President Affirms Plan To Retain West Bank, Gaza

GF121225 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 12 Mar 86 pp 1, 8

['Atif 'Awdah dispatch from Rabat]

[Text] A message sent by the president of the Zionist entity Hayim Herzog to Gerald Crack, chairman of B'nai B'rith, has revealed Israel's determination to keep the West Bank and Gaza Strip until 2010 and not to withdraw from the Arab territories it occupied in 1967. The message, whose full text was obtained by *AL-ITTIHAD*, affirmed that the Israeli Government has formed a plan to force the West Bank inhabitants to emigrate and to establish Israeli settlements in Nabulus so that the Jewish population in the West Bank is double of the Arab population.

This message — the text of which we will publish — incited various reactions in Arab diplomatic circles in Washington due to its contents, represented by the following points:

1. The agreement of the Likud and the Labor Party to reject the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip;
2. The call for implementing a plan known as the (Dru) B'rith plan;
3. Evaluation of the current situation as ideal for annexing the occupied Arab territories;
4. Israel's procrastination regarding the peace efforts and its deception of the international community, including the U.S. community.

The following is the text of the message: From Hayim Herzog to Gerald Crack, chairman of the B'nai B'rith organization. Dear Gerald. To remove your fears that the establishment of a national unity government in Israel may delay the fulfillment of the (Dru) B'rith plan, which envisages a great increase in the number of Jews in Judea and Samaria over the number of Arabs by 2010, I vigorously affirm to you that the government members from the Labor Party and the Likud agree on speeding up this operation represented by the (Dru) B'rith plan, because this would allow us to confront the conception of establishing a Palestinian state in Judea and Samaria. We in Israel believe that the current situation in the Middle East is ideal for a speedy annexation of more lands. Every effort should be exerted to establish new settlements in the administered lands and increase the number of non-Jewish emigrants from these lands. It is preferable that you should encourage this idea in diaspora and to confirm the legitimacy and correctness of our policy toward Judea and Samaria for the successful progress of this operation. With my best wishes. Yours sincerely, Hayim Herzog.

Rabin Sees No Agreement on UNIFIL Mandate Extension

TA111715 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Israel will not agree to an extension of UNIFIL's mandate in southern Lebanon. Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said this in a meeting with UN Under Secretary Marrack Goulding this morning in Tel Aviv. Our military correspondent reports that the defense minister told the visitor that Israel will not ask for the removal of UNIFIL forces from southern Lebanon, but will certainly not ask for it to remain.

UN's Goulding Interviewed

TA111254 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Interview with UN Under Secretary General Marrack Goulding by Alan Ben-'Ami, following a meeting between Marrack and Defense Minister Rabin in Jerusalem on 11 March — recorded]

[Text] [Marrack] I think the principal problem now facing UNIFIL in south Lebanon is, as I said, the fact that it was set up in 1978 to perform certain functions, and it has so far not been permitted to perform those functions. That is its principal problem. Many criticisms are made of UNIFIL, especially in this country. We feel that they are not always entirely fair, because UNIFIL is not being given the opportunity to show what it can do. The mandate is there. UNIFIL has the power to do what it was set up to do.

[Ben-'Ami] Then why is it, for example, that when the Israel Army carried a recent sweep of villages in south Lebanon, it found tremendous quantities of arms and weaponry very close to many UN positions. The UN, I understand, is supposed to make sure that there are no armed elements wandering around in south lebanon.

[Marrack] The UN is indeed supposed to make sure that no armed elements are wandering around south Lebanon. It's meant to make sure that arms are not brought into south Lebanon. I think the first question about what you say is whether in fact some of these stories about large caches being found close to UN positions are actually true.

[Ben-'Ami] Do you have reason to doubt them?
[Marrack] We have reason to doubt that. Secondly, insofar as caches of arms have been found, it is a question of when they were placed there.

[Ben-'Ami] Do you see any problems with regard to renewal of the mandate and with regard to funding UNIFIL. The United States are [as heard] not going to carry on their own funding.
[Marrack] There is a problem of funding of UNIFIL for the next mandate period which begins in April, assuming that the Security Council agrees to renew the mandate. The United States Administration have told us that they are working hard to try to resolve their problem. I think it's important that they should do so. In principle, it seems to us very undesirable that member-states who contribute forces should be required to pay part of the cost of that, especially when some of the member-states who contribute forces are pretty hard up.

PFLP Pressuring Jordan Supporters in Territories

TA110904 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 11 Mar 86 p 3

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] Security sources have reported that the PFLP has recently applied heavy pressure to Jordan's supporters in the territories. This was manifest in telephone threats to the central circles that organized the delegations that were to express support for King Husayn following his speech. In the village of Dura, unidentified people shot at one of these people, but fortunately he suffered only slight hand injuries. The central figures who organized the support delegations are currently in hiding until the tempers calm.

The pressure does not appear to come from Syria, as it is interested in helping Husayn against 'Arafat. Apparently, the PFLP is worried about the prospects of a Jordanian-Syrian rapprochement, for fear that this would come at its expense, as 'Arafat's fate in Amman has shown. It therefore wants to sabotage this move.

Further Reportage, Commentary on Tabah Talks

Murphy Transmits Mubarak Message

TA121117 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] President Mubarak sent a message to Israel via U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy in which he reiterates that signing the Tabah arbitral compromis will accelerate progress in other bilateral issues. At the same time, he noted that although Egypt is interested in such progress, there are also constraints and limitations that are making things difficult.

Our correspondent Gid'on Remez has been told that the Egyptian message was conveyed this morning to Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir during his meeting with Murphy in Tel Aviv. During their meeting, the two men reviewed the riots in Egypt, among other topics. Minister Shamir said that Israel is interested in seeing real progress in the fields of commerce, tourism, and communication, in addition to agreement over Tabah. The U.S. envoy also conferred this morning with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. They discussed the Syrian president's aggressive speech, King Husayn's speeches, the situation in the territories, and the problem of security in southern Lebanon.

Envoy to Egypt Comments

TA121058 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1047 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] Israel's ambassador to Egypt, Moshe Sason, says that the Egyptian delegation to the Tabah talks brought with it several positive answers on the issue of normalization between the two countries. Sason, who is here for the Tabah talks, spoke with our Arab affairs correspondent Eldad Beck at the end of the meeting of the heads of the Egyptian and Israeli delegations in Herzliyya this morning. He noted that the Egyptian answers were received with satisfaction by the Israeli delegation. The Israeli ambassador added that the atmosphere during the meeting was positive and constructive.

Kimche Notes Progress

TA121212 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] Our correspondent in Herzliyya reports certain progress in the talks between the Israeli and Egyptian delegations on Tabah and other, more general issues. Bassam Ja'bar is filing the following report during the break in the deliberations:

The negotiations between the Israeli and Egyptian delegations on the Tabah and normalization issues began this morning with a meeting between the leaders of the delegations slated for a review of everything which has and has not been achieved in the talks between the delegations so far. David Kimche, the Foreign Ministry director general, pointed to positive answers brought by the Egyptian delegation.

[Begin Kimche recording] The Egyptians arrived with several answers to bilateral issues, and I must note that these answers were positive. We expressed our satisfaction with these replies. [end recording]

The following is what were we told by Avraham Tamir, the director general of the Prime Minister's Office: [Begin Tamir recording] I think what Dave said — and I support his remarks as well as the remarks we have made all the time — proves that the trend in each of our meetings and deliberations is not one of crisis or crises, nor of delays or stalemates and the like, but one of continual progress. [end recording]

Moshe Sason, the Israeli ambassador to Egypt, expressed satisfaction with the candid atmosphere prevailing in the talks between the two parties. The deliberations between the two delegations were stopped at noon. They will resume this afternoon with the participation of all the delegation members.

Sharon Wins Major Committee Post at Herut Convention

TA120549 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] After a long count late ioto the night it emerged that Ari'el Sharon had defeated Binyamin-Ze'ev Begin, son of the former prime minister, by a relatively large majority for chairmanship of the all-important Mandates Committee. From Tel Aviv, Tony Gadot reports:

[Begin Gadot recording] Hundreds of party delegates waited until the early hours of this morning for the results of the vote. Ari'el Sharon's victory came as a surprise to many, not least because of the size of the majority: 1,082 to Sharon; 856 to Dr Beni Begin — a majority of 226. The result is important not only because Sharon will now head a committee empowered to coopt new convention delegates and can theoretically pack the convention with his own supporters, but also because the ad hoc David Levi-Sharon coalition has proved its strength. Yesterday, Yitzhaq Shamir's candidate for chairman of the convention presidium, Moshe Qatzav, narrowly defeated the Levi-Sharon candidate, Eliyahu Ben-Elisar. Many expected this trend to continue, especially after Beni Begin's speech yesterday.

The climax to the Herut internal elections will come later today, when David Levi and Moshe Arens square off for the all-important vote for the chairmanship of the Standing Committee. This committee will later elect the Herut Central Committee, which in turn will choose the party leader and Knesset candidates. At the party convention, both Levi and Sharon demanded that Yitzhaq Shamir grant their factions greater representation in all the party institutions. Shamir's refusal led to the setting up of the Levi-Sharon coalition. Neither Levi nor Sharon are at present challenging Shamir's position as leader of the party, but following the rotation of prime ministers and prior to the next Knesset election, one or both of them may make such a bid. And the present elections are an indication of their relative strength. [end recording]

According to supporters in the Sharon camp, the Mandates Committee will begin a meeting today and there are plans to coopt another 200 delegates to the convention.

PANA Closes Addis Ababa Office, Dismisses Staff

AB121137 Dakar PANA in English 1120 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] Addis Ababa, 11 March (PANA) — The director general of the PAN-AFRICAN NEWS AGENCY (PANA), Mr Auguste Mpassi-Muba currently on a familiarization tour of eastern African countries, met on Tuesday, the secretary general of the Organisation of African Unity, OAU, Mr Ide Oumarou.

Mr Mpassi-Muba briefed the OAU secretary general on the perspectives of PANA evolution and about the forthcoming intergovernmental councils session planned for May in Harare.

On PANA liasion office in Addis Ababa which covers the OAU and the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Mr Mpassi-Muba expressed disatisfaction over the performance of its staff which he said obliged him to send journalists from the headquarters in Dakar to cover conferences held in Addis Ababa and in the subregion.

The PANA director general decided to close down the bureau temporarily and dismissed all the staff until the appointment of a competent journalist. He also briefed the Ethiopian information officials and the OAU secretary general on the measures he is taking to make PANA's financial position sound.

Telecommunications Group Meets, Elects New Chief

AB091400 Dakar PANA in English 0951 GMT 7 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Dar es Salaam, 7 March (SHIHATA/PANA) — The third ministerial conference of the Pan African Telecommunications Union (PATU) being held in the Tanzania's northern town of Arusha, elected yesterday Tanzania's Rajabu Mabula Yusuf, secretary-general of the union.

He polled 17 votes to defeat his opponent, Hamdane Abderrahamane of Algeria, who got 14 votes. There was no vote spoilt.

His election, by a simple majority after the first round of polling failed to produce a decisive two thirds majority, was announced at the conference by the Tanzanian minister for communications and works, Mustapha Nyanganyi, chairman of the current PATU ministerial conference.

Yusuf, former director general of the Tanzania Posts and Telecommunications Corporation, has been PATU's deputy secretary general, and takes over from Mamadou Bobo Camara of Guinea who held the post since PATU was formed eight years ago.

He will head the Kinshasa-based organisation for the next four years.

ALGIERIA

Reportage on Visit of Sierra Leonean President

Arrives 9 March

LD091928 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 9 Mar 86

[Text] There is fresh impetus to Algerian-Sierra Leonean cooperation: Sierra Leone's head of state Joseph Saidu Momoh has been in Algiers since this afternoon for a 3-day official visit to our country. The president of Sierra Leone, who is accompanied by an important delegation, was welcomed on arrival by President Chadli Bendjedid who was surrounded by the members of the government. During his stay in Algeria, the head of state of Sierra Leone will have political talks with President Chadli Bendjedid, and will visit several economic projects.

Foreign Ministers Confer

LD111257 Algiers APS in English 1005 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Algiers, 11/03/86 (APS) — The president of Sierra Leone Republic, General Joseph Momoh visited Monday a socialist village in Helloula (about 50 kms west of Algiers). President Joseph Momoh New [as received] visited the various infrastructures of the village expressed his admiration towards the Algerian experience in the settlement of rural populations. The Sierra Leone president arrived here Saturday for an official visit at the invitation of President Chadli Bendjedid with whom he had a series of talks.

In the frame of this visit, foreign affairs minister, Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi conferred here Monday with the foreign affairs minister in Sierra Leone, Abdul Karim Koroma. During the talks, the two ministers assessed the works of the 43d OAU ministerial session held recently in Addis Ababa and examined political and economic problems of the African Continent.

Visit Concludes 11 March

LD111905 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Brigadier Joseph Momoh, president of Sierra Leone, left Algiers this morning after a 3-day official visit. In a brief press statement, President Momoh said the talks held with President Chadli Bendjedid and other Algerian officials centered on bilateral relations, the current international situation, and the political and economic problems of the African Continent. This visit was beneficial in more than one way, the Sierra Leone president said.

A last meeting was held this morning between the two presidents at El-Mithak villa. A convergence of views was noted on several international issues, as well as on strengthening cooperation between the two countries. The Sierra Leone and the Algerian trade ministers signed a trade agreement this morning which will give form to the legal framework governing bilateral cooperation.

Joint Communique Issued

LD120018 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] A joint communique has marked the official visit to Algeria by the Sierra Leone president. It is to be noted, in substance, that President Chadli Bendjedid and Joseph Momoh reaffirmed their will to give an ever wider dimension to Algerian-Sierra Leonean relations in all fields, in keeping with the potentials and the interests of the two countries. The two heads of state mentioned the situations of crisis and tension which prevail in several parts of the world, and gave special attention to the problems that are confronting Africa.

In this context they reaffirmed their determination to safeguard and strengthen the OAU -- privileged and irreplacable framework for dialogue for the preservation of peace and security in Africa -- to enable it to fulfill its mission to effect the liberation of the continent and consolidate its development. Thus, the two presidents reiterated their joint desire to find peaceful solutions to African problems [words indistinct] southern Africa. The two heads of state renewed their active solidarity and their unreserved support for the peoples of Namibia and South Africa under the guidance of their respective liberation movements, SWAPO and the ANC. On this occasion, they reaffirmed that the restoration of a lasting peace in this area could not be ensured unless Namibia becomes independent by means of the full and prompt implementation of Resolution 439 of the United Nations Security Council. In order to eradicate apartheid, build a democratic and free society in South Africa where fundamental human rights are guaranteed, achieve the rapid independence of Namibia, and halt any breach of security and stability in the states of the area, the two heads of state made a pressing appeal to the international community to seek the effective and prompt implementation of the UN and OAU resolutions on South Africa and Namibia.

On the Chadian issue, the two presidents expressed their concern over the protracted character of the conflict and reaffirmed that the principles and conditions likely to promote the restoration of a lasting peace in Chad are national reconciliation, a halt to any form of foreign interference, and respect for the national unity, independence, and territorial integrity of Chad.

On the situation in northwest Africa, the two heads of state voiced their concern over the Western Saharan conflict. They reiterated their belief that only the implementation of Resolution 104 tabled at the 19th OAU Summit and Resolution (?450) of the United Nations is capable of serving as a guarantee for a peaceful, just, and long-lasting solution to the problem of the Western Sahara. In this connection, they support the efforts of the current OAU president to implement these resolutions. The two presidents renewed their appeal for direct negotiations between Morocco and the Polisario Front.

The two heads of state also gave special attention to the problems of the Middle East. They recalled that peace in the area can be restored only under the auspices of a UN conference with the effective participation of the PLO, the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Furthermore, the two heads of state condemned the infringement on unity, sovereignty, and the territorial integrity of Lebanon.

On the Iran-Iraq conflict, they made a pressing appeal to the two sides to put an end to this fratricidal war and settle their differences peacefully in the interests of their two peoples.

The examination of the international economic situation enabled the two heads of state, on the other hand, to show the inequalities of the current international system, which is particularly marked by the rise of protectionism and the deadlock of global negotiations by developed countries. In this connection, they reaffirmed their concern over the growing debt of Third World countries, which is exacerbated by the international monetary "disorder," and insisted on the need to establish a fruitful North-South dialogue with a view to creating a new international economic order that will be just and equitable. The two presidents underlined the qualitative development of South-South cooperation as the expression of natural solidarity between developing countries and a means of promoting their own interests.

The two presidents, Chadli Bendjedid and Joseph Momoh, in recalling their commitment to the decisions of the 21st OAU summit, expressed their belief that strengthening inter-African cooperation, expanding South-South cooperation and the fact that the economies of African peoples complement one another are privileged assets for safeguarding the specific interests of African countries and Third World countries. Presidents Joseph Momoh and Chadli Bendjedid also pledged not to spare any efforts to ensure a success commensurate with the hopes of African peoples at the special UN session on the critical economic situation of Africa to be held in May 1986.

At the end of the official visit to Algeria by President Joseph Momoh, both presidents expressed their deep satisfaction over the results of the talks.

DPRK Foreign Minister Arrives 11 March

LD111740 Algiers APS in Arabic 1617 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Algiers, 11 Mar (APS) — Kim Yong-nam, member of the Korean Workers Party Central Committee Politburo, vice premier and minister of foreign affairs, arrived in Algiers this afternoon on a 4-day official visit. He was welcomed at Algiers airport by Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi and by the North Korean ambassador in Algiers. In his statement upon arrival, the Korean minister expressed his happiness to be visiting Algeria, which is linked to the People's Republic of Korea with strong relations of friendship and cooperation. He pointed out that the Algerian people have always stood by the side of the Korean people who are trying to unite Korea.

Kim Yong-nam added that Algeria and Korea, as members of the Nonaligned Movement, have continuously worked to develop their bilateral relations and resolve some of the international issues of mutual interest. The Korean minister concluded his statement saying that his visit will enable him to acquaint himself with the colossal achievements of the Algerian people which will guarantee happiness and prosperity.

Planning Minister Meets With UAE Finance Official

LD111249 Algiers APS in English 1008 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Algiers, 11/03/86 (APS) — Minister of Planning Ali Oubouzar Audienced here Monday vice minister of finance of the United Arab Emirates, Hasan Nawas. The talks were centered on economic relations between the two countries and means of developing them.

Oubouzar Notes Oil Revenue Cut Means 'Sacrifices'

LD121036 Algiers APS in Arabic 0855 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] Algiers; 12 Mar (APS) — Planning Minister Ali Oubouzar has stated that the crisis resulting from the expected reduction in oil revenues imposes on Algerians the need to work harder, improve returns, and consume in an economic and logical manner. In a statement to Algerian national radio, Oubouzar said that a relentless war must now be waged against all forms of squandering especially with regard to products imported with hard currency. The situation, he added, requires maximum mobilization of our production capabilities and improved production. Oubouzar said that this is the only possible response to the crisis. He called on every Algerian to examine his conscience as to whether he deserved the wages he had earned.

Oubouzara added that despite difficulties, the policy of protecting citizen's purchasing powers will be continued as the quantity or prices of essential materials would not change. He pointed out that the state has programmed [words indistinct] sufficient supply for the market in an effort to avoid any shortage in essential food supplies.

The minister pointed out that tensions recently noted in the market were not due to the reduction of imports but to inefficiency in marketing and distribution. The minister pointed out that austerity would particularly affect the importation of materials of secondary importance. He added that sacrifices are called for from those who have something to sacrifice, and that the principle of social justice will be applied.

LIBYA

Banghazi Meeting Pledges To Eliminate Enemies

LD111651 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Excerpt] The Basic People's Conference at Banghazi al-Jadidah held an emergency meeting, during which it discussed a number of topics, including the subject of pursuing the enemies of the Libyan Arab people, chasing them, eliminating anyone related to them, confiscating their assets and those of the defunct regime's symbols, and destroying reactionary culture by replacing it with a Jamahiriyah culture. The conference issued the following resolutions and other decisions:

Enemies of the Arab people: The removal in the Jamahiriyah of everything which is related to the stray people who have classified themselves as enemies of the Libyan Arab people, their revolution and achievements. [sentence as heard] Those who have submitted to the Libyan Arab people's enemies by cooperating with them must shoulder the results of their traitorous act: The Libyan Arab people will pursue them using all available means, liquidate them, end their role and confiscate their moveable and fixed assets.

Al-Qadhdhafi Pledges Not To Produce Nuclear Bomb

LD121119 Kuwait KUNA in English 0942 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] New Delhi, March 12 (KUNA) — Libyan leader Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has called for "direct dialogue with India" to resolve all "misunderstanding that has arisen between Tripoli and New Delhi".

The Libyan leader in an interview published Wednesday in *THE INDIAN EXPRESS* daily expressed disatisfaction over the feeble Indian response to the recent American threats to Libya. Libya sought India's help in its recent crisis, which led to escalation of tension in the North African region. It sent a message to Indian External Affairs Minister Bali Ram Bhagat, explaining its position.

Three months ago tension was high between Libya and the United States after Washington hinted that Tripoli was behind the December attacks on Rome and Vienna airports and American threats of reprisal [were] coupled with U.S. naval military maneuvers off the Libyan coast. Libya then sought but apparently failed to get India's denunciation of the American threats.

Libya is likely to send Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud to India with the hope of further strengthening friendly ties between the two countries. He is also likely to hold wide ranging talks with Indian leaders on political, economic and other issues. Major Jallud visited India during the Janata regime and during the nonaligned meet in 1982.

The paper said the Libyans appear to be sensitive to the fact that the Indian Vice President Ramaswamy Iyer Venkataraman will be the formal host of Major Jallud. But they have been assured by the Indian Government that Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi will have separate talks with him.

(?Al-Qadhdhafi said) "During the American-Libyan confrontation the stand of India stopped short of what was expected." "India as chairman of the Nonaligned Movement should have expressed unrestricted support against this Zionist-American joint aggression". Al-Qadhdhafi spoke warmly of late Indian Premier Indira Gandhi whom he described as a great champion of the Nonaligned Movement. He said he was deeply moved and much "affected" by her assassination. The Libyan leader said "India has a special status and weight in the Nonaligned Movement".

He renewed a pledge that "Libya would never help Pakistan to acquire nuclear bomb. We consider nuclear weapons production a fatal mistake against humanity".

Referring to the 45,000 Indians, working in various government agencies in Libya, Al-Qadhdhafi said "they are our good friends and they are serious and diligent workers".

PDRY Chairman's Note Delivered to Al-Qadhdhafi

GF120616 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 0330 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-Jalil Ghilan, PDRY ambassador to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, has conveyed a message from Brother Engineer Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the YSP Political Bureau and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, to his brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan 1 September Revolution. The message deals with the course of events in the PDRY since the abortive coupist conspiracy and the damage that resulted.

This took place during the brother ambassador's meeting in Tripoli yesterday with brother Kamil Hasan Mansur, secretary of the General People's Congress for Foreign Liaison in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. He gave a full explanation of events in the PDRY and the measures taken to stabilize and guarantee the revolutionary policy in the PDRY.

The Libyan showed understanding of the events, expressed regret at them, and affirmed Libya's desire to support the people in the PDRY in a way that serves the two countries and peoples and their mutual goals in struggling against imperialism, Zionism, and reactionaryism.

Sudan's Prime, Defense, Foreign Ministers Arrive

LD121424 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] The Prime Minister of fraternal Sudan Dr al-Jazuli Daf'allah, accompanied by Defense Minister Major General 'Uthman 'Abdallah Muhammad and Foreign Minister Ibrahim Ayyub, this morning arrived in Tripoli on a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah within the framework of relations of fraternal cooperation.

Secretary of the General People's Committee engineer Jadallah Azzuz al-Talhi and members of the General People's Committee headed those who were assembled to welcome the guest. Head of the Arab and foreign diplomatic missions accredited to Libya and staff of the Sudanese Embassy in Tripoli also attended the reception.

The Sudanese prime minister told a JANA correspondent that the Jamahiriyah continues to stand by the revolution of the Sudanese people until the latter realize their objectives. Dr al-Jazuli Daf'allah reaffirmed that Libya and Sudan are marching forward toward the realization of the aspirations and hopes of the one people in both fraternal countries by way of continuous cooperation between them in various spheres.

Dr al-Jazzuli, after expressing happiness and pride at visiting the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah said: I consider myself as still being in the Sudan because our Arab people in Libya and their revolutionary leadership bravely stood with the Arab Sudanese people against the dominant regime until the latter fell forever.

SFRY Envoy Delivers Statement to Libya's Mansur

LD112137 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1613 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Tripoli, March 11 (TANJUG) — Libya's new Foreign Liaison Secretary Kamil Hasan Mansur received here today Yugoslav ambassador to Libya Vuko Dragasevic. Ambassador Dragasevic delivered to the Libyan foreign minister a Yugoslav state presidency statement on the situation in the Mediterranean.

Mansur positively assessed Yugoslavia's stands, its activities in the U.N. and the Nonaligned Movement, and the country's contribution to peace and security in the Mediterranean. Dragasevic and Mansur also discussed Yugoslav and Libyan interests in the further promotion of successful cooperation between the two friendly countries.

Ethiopian Information Minister Arrives 11 Mar

LD120959 Tripoli JANA in English 0914 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada Thani 30, March 12, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The Ethiopian minister of information arrived yesterday afternoon in Tripoli on a visit to Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah heading a delegation representing the Workers' Party of Ethiopia to participate in the second congress of the international seat [as received] which is to take place over the next few days.

In comments he made to JANA's correspondent, the Ethiopian information minister lauded the friendly relations existing between Al-Jamahiriyah and his country in all fields, stressing that the success of this congress to be held on the soil of Al-Jamahiriyah would strengthen greatly the bilateral relations especially in the struggle against imperialism, racism and Zionism.

He added that international imperialism in its collusion with Zionism and racism interferes in the internal affairs of Africa generally including U.S. provocations and threats against Al-Jamahiriyah and the conducting of military manoeuvres off the Libyan coast. It is, he continues, a paralysed aggressive act. He has pointed out that this congress which is against imperialism, racism and Zionism aims basically (?at confronting) these imperialist conspiracies and taking a unified stand regarding them, expressing the solidarity of the Ethiopian workers with the people of Al-Jamahiriyah and its historic leadership against all the plots and threats of U.S. imperialism.

Senegal, Djibouti Presidents' Personal Envoys Arrive

LD111403 Tripoli JANA in English 0946 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada Thani 29, March 11, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Mr. Amdiwarba, (?personal) envoy of the president of Senegal, Abdou Diouf, arrived yesterday at noon in Tripoli on an official visit to Al-Jamahiriyah. Likewise, Mr. Hamdi Ould Miknas, the personal envoy of Djibouti's president arrived yesterday afternoon in Tripoli on an official visit to Al-Jamahiriyah.

DPRK Foreign Minister Kim Departs 11 March

LD111534 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1445 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Tripoli, 11 Mar (JANA) — Kim Yong-nam, member of the Korean Workers Party's Central Committee Politburo, DPRK vice premier and minister of foreign affairs, and the delegation accompanying him, left Tripoli this afternoon at the end of a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah [SPLAJ]. In a statement to a JANA correspondent Kim Yong-nam stressed that his visit to the SPLAJ has achieved positive results. It was a successful visit because of the strong ties linking the two fraternal countries.

Kim lauded the colossal achievements gained by the Libyan Arab people in all fields thanks to the Great Al-Fatih Revolution. He also stressed the importance of increasing, consolidating and developing the existing relations of cooperation between the fraternal Libyan and Korean peoples.

MAURITANIA

Burkinabe Minister Delivers Invitation, Departs

AB110925 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0730 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Mamadou Toure, the Burkinabe minister for commerce and people's supplies, left Nouakchott yesterday afternoon for Ouagadougou. It should be recalled that the Burkinabe minister was received during his visit to our country by Lieutenant Colonel Anne Amadou Babaly, the minister of interior, on behalf of the head of state. The Burkinabe minister delivered a message from President Thomas Sankara to the Mauritanian head of state. The message contains an invitation to the upcoming summit of members of the West African Economic Community and the Nonaggression and Defense Aid Agreement.

Algerian Energy Minister Arrives in Nouakchott

AB111740 Paris AFP in French 1701 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Nouakchott, 11 Mar (AFP) — The Algerian energy minister, Nadi Belkacem, on Tuesday arrived in Nouakchott where he was received in audience by the Mauritanian minister of interior, General Amadou Babaly, who is acting for the head of state currently touring the interior. The Algerian minister had visited Nouadhibou, Mauritania's large seaport situated in the north of the country, where he visited an important petroleum refinery. The reactivation of this refinery, which has been dormant for several years, was entrusted to Algeria last February.

MOROCCO

Crown Prince Departs for Visit to Saudi Arabia

LD111413 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Excerpt] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed this morning left Marrakech Menara airport for Riyadh on an official visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at the invitation of His

Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the crown prince, deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed is accompanied by an important delegation.

Argentine Vice President Ends Visit to Morocco

LD071319 Rabat MAP in English 1216 GMT 7 Mar 86

[Text] Rabat March 7 (MAP) — Vice-President of Argentina Mr Victor Martinez Martin Oli has said that his country "has not recognized and will never recognize the so-called 'Saharan Republic' (proclaimed by the Algerian-backed Polisario movement fighting Morocco for control over the former Spanish Sahara)." The Government of Argentina, he said, will endeavor for establishing a constant dialogue between Algeria and Morocco to settle the Sahara problem.

Mr Martinez who is also chairman of the Argentine Senate made this statement at a news conference held here Thursday evening prior to his leaving Morocco after a six day visit at the invitation of the speaker of the Moroccan House of Representatives Mr Ahmed Osman during which he attended the celebrations marking the silver jubilee of King Hassan's accession to the throne, March 3.

During his press conference, the Argentine official was asked to elaborate on his country's stance vis-a-vis the Sahara problem, prospects of Moroccan-Argentine relations and south-south dialogue and solidarity. He said his stay in Morocco enabled him to have additional data on the problem of the Sahara and deepen his knowledge regarding this issue. In this respect, he recalled that Argentina itself is facing Chile and dispute over and the Falkland Islands with Great Britain.

The Argentine Government's stance, he said, is based on three principles: people's right to self-determination, non-meddling in other states' internal affairs and the respect of national sovereignty. Argentina, Mr Martinez said, tries to favor dialogue for the settlement of disputes. "We believe in dialogue and we encourage Algeria and Morocco to follow this path to solve the Sahara problem", said Mr Martinez adding that Argentine has not recognized the puppet state "SADR" for it deems that Moroccan has rights that must be taken into account.

On relations between Morocco and Argentina, he said that the exchange of delegations of contractors from both sides has enabled to establish a permanent dialogue. Yet, despite [words indistinct] the two countries' interest". He listed the cooperation projects existing between Morocco and Argentina in the areas of harbor works and fisheries, mining products, imports by Argentina of the phosphates and technology it needs for the production of fertilizers. Other projects he said, concern the installation of bovines breeding centers in Morocco. In the cultural field, bilateral cooperation concerns the exchange of visits between writers, academicians, artists and students from both countries.

Mr Martinez then elaborated on the current economic difficulties facing Third World countries and the prospects of south-south dialogue saying that Argentina favors a policy of dialogue and solidarity between developing countries. The safest most secured way to ensure the success of such policy is to multiply and encourage inter-regional exchanges between developing countries, he said adding that Argentina and Morocco which hold important and strategic positions must play, each one in its geographic sphere, a role in boosting south-south cooperation.

During his stay, the Argentine official was received by King Hassan II of Morocco and met with Prime Minister Karim Lamrani and several cabinet members.

SUDAN

Former President Numayri 'Still in Cairo'

JN121035 Khartoum SUNA in English 1010 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] Khartoum, Mar 12 (SUNA) — The ousted President Numayri is still in Egypt, an Egyptian reliable source affirmed. This affirmation came following reports published by the Egyptian daily *AL-SHA'B* that Numayri had left Egypt after he has withdrawn 10 million dollars from his accounts from an Egyptian bank. Numayri was seen in one of Cairo streets riding a car given to him by the Egyptian republic presidental [as received], the daily *AL-AYYAM* issued here today reported. It is to be recalled that the Sudanese Government demanded from Numayri to stand trial in Sudan for commiting criminal practicies against the country and its people.

Kuwaiti Envoy Meets With TMC Member Mirghani

LD111434 Kuwait KUNA in English 0915 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Khartoum, March 11 (KUNA) — Kuwait's ambassador to Sudan, 'Abdallah al-Rayyis met here yesterday with member of Sudan's Military Transitional Council Muhammad Mirghani, it was reported Tuesday. Sudan's news agency SUNA said that the talks deal with economic and military cooperation between Kuwait and Sudan. Mirghani was quoted following the meeting as saying that the ambassador affirmed his country's obligation to continue its aid to Sudan.

Jailed Ex-Vice President Reportedly Attends Meeting

JN091348 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1055 GMT 9 Mar 86

[Text] Khartoum, 9 Mar (SUNA) — *AL-MAYDAN*, mouthpiece of the Sudanese Communist Party, has claimed that the accused 'Umar Muhammad al-Tayyib, former vice president of the deposed president, was taken from (Cooper) prison, where he is being detained, to a meeting outside the prison in which a number of senior military officials took part at the end of last week.

After further investigation, a senior military source told the newspaper that he had no knowledge of the matter and therefore could neither confirm nor deny it. *AL-MAYDAN* urged the Transitional Military Council to clarify the issue by revealing the facts and ending the rumors.

Falasha Prosecution To Present Final Plea 9 Mar

JN081734 Khartoum SUNA in English 1725 GMT 8 Mar 86

[Text] Khartoum, March 8 (SUNA) — The prosecution board, in Ethiopian Jews (Falasha) case, will present its final plea before the court tomorrow, Sunday, announced chairman of the prosecution board Al-Sadiq al-Shami here Saturday. The plea will discuss scrupulously all the documents presented by the prosecution to prove the misappropriations conducted by defendants. Moreover the plea will tackle what the defence had provoked, in its final defence plea, in a bid to delete all its arguments, Al-Shamsi stated. It is to be recalled that the defence plea in the court trying former vice president and chairman of the dissolved security organ 'Umar Muhamamd al-Tayyib was presented last month.

Sentence Postponed to 5 April

JN091925 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1731 GMT 9 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 9 Mar (SUNA) — It has been decided to pronounce sentence in the Falasha case on 5 April. This was announced by the judge of the state security court in charge of this case following the prosecution's final plea presented by chairman of the prosecution board lawyer Al-Sadiq al-Shami today.

New Exchange Rates for Pound Announced

JN121003 Khartoum SUNA in English 0955 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] Khartoum, March 12 (SUNA) — The committee entrusted by the Bank of Sudan to supervise free markets resources Tuesday announced new exchange rates for the Sudanese pound against the U.S. dollar. Effective as of today, the exchange of the dollar bank notes will be 4 (four) pounds instead of 4.25 announced last Feb. 25. Transfer exchange rate will be 4.05 and the buying rate is 4.10. The new rates were announced yesterday following a meeting of the committee which comprises 17 members from a number of banks.

SPLA Deputy Leader Calls For Evacuation of Towns

EA111755 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] The deputy commander in chief of the SPLA and deputy chairman of the SPLM provisional executive committee, Lieutenant Colonel Carabino Kuanyin Bol, has appealed to all civilian populations still in the towns in war zone one to evacuate the towns to the rural areas where they will be given protection by the conscious revolutionary forces of the SPLA.

Lieutenant Colonel Carabino Kuanyin Bol also called upon those Sudanese who cooperate with the gang of generals in power to disassociate themselves from the generals and join the People's Revolutionary Movement, the SPLA-SPLM. He emphasized that anybody who cooperates with the Khartoum regime will be considered as the real enemy of the people and if caught will be dealt with according to the laws of the revolutionary struggle. He stressed that it is now high time that all people of goodwill should isolate themselves from Siwar al-Dhahab's Army, who are killing, looting and abusing human rights. He called on every able Sudanese to join hands with the SPLA forces to wage a protracted war against the enemies of the people. In conclusion, Lieutenant Colonel Carabino pointed out that the capture of Yirol and Rumbek must be a great turning point in the long struggle of the Sudanese people for freedom.

Civilians Warned Against Aiding Government Troops

EA101548 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] units of Abu Shawk Battalion under the command of Major Michael Makol captured eight canoes and one speedboat loaded with salt, dhurah [sorghum] onions and other essential commodities. According to our correspondent in Upper Nile, the canoes were hired by the government from the local people to transport food items to the starving government soldiers in (Fangek) and Tonga. In this regard, the spokesman of the SPLA/SPLM [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement] Military High Command has issued directives that all citizens who assist the enemy by transporting their food items are considered and will be treated enemies of the people according to the SPLA laws and will be dealt severe revolutionary justice.

SPLA Forces Kill 15 Government Militia Members

EA111936 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] SPLA forces of Nile Battalion under the command of Major Paulino Deng Ajong clashed with (?Murahilin) government militia between Abyei and Mayen in northern Bahr el-Ghazal. Our correspondent says that 15 of the government militia were killed and 43 others were wounded.

Commenting on the incident, a spokesman for the SPLA-SPLM political military high command pointed out that the Transitional Military Council [TMC], and especially Fadlallah Burmah armed the militia against the SPLA. These militia did a great deal of destruction in Abyei, Bentiu, Gogrial and Aweil Districts before the arrival of the SPLA in the area. But, the SPLA-SPLM political military high command spokesman stressed, that if SPLA can defeat and capture towns from Siwar al-Dhahab's regular army, the militia are no match and are being sacrificed by the TMC. [sentence as heard] The SPLA is forced to fight the militia in self-defence and this is very tragic: They are our brothers and fellow citizens.

In this regard, the SPLA-SPLM commander in chief and chairman, Colonel Dr John Garang de Mabior, has therefore called for convening of a conference of elders of nationalities outside and along the Bahr al-Arab River in Bentiu, Gogrial, Abyei, Aweil, Raga and corresponding districts north of the river Bahr al-Arab to consult each other under protection and auspices of the SPLA-SPLM so as to resolve their grazing and other problems peacefully without instigation and use by the Khartoum decaying regime.

These nationalities or tribes have for centuries lived in peace and harmony and self-seeking military men or politicians in Khartoum must not be allowed to have them shed blood among themselves unnecessarily. Let the elders of all the tribes in the area forget the recent fights that have been instigated by the TMC for their own comfort in Khartoum and let these elders come together to talk genuinely as before under the SPLA so that there is peace in the area, the spokesman concluded.

TUNISIA

Bourguiba Congratulates Gorbachev on Reelection

LD120010 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] President Habib Bourguiba has sent the following cable of congratulation to Mikhail Gorbachev, secretary general of the CPSU:

On the occasion of your reelection to the post of secretary general of the CPSU Central Committee, it gives me pleasure to offer you the most sincere congratulation and to praise the work which you continue to do for the prosperity of the Soviet people and for peace and justice in the world. I would like to take this opportunity to stress to you our intention to consolidate the friendly relations between our two parties for the benefit and happiness of our two peoples.

UGANDA

President Museveni Bans Political Activities

EA112013 Nairobi Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda has banned meetings and other activities by political parties in a move aimed at bringing stability to the war-wrecked country. Radio Uganda quoted Museveni as warning armed groups opposed to his newly-installed government not to challenge his rule or it would give him a chance to crush them.

According to the radio, Museveni said that the ban on activities by political parties did not mean that the parties themselves have been outlawed or dissolved. He said the ban was on activities which at the moment would delay or completely arrest Uganda from regaining stability.

Two More Ministerial Appointments Announced

EA121303 Nairobi DAILY NATION in English
12 Mar 86 p1

[Edward Kitaka article: "Uganda Curbs Party Rallies"]

[Excerpt] kampala, Tuesday — Mr Museveni on Monday appointed Ben Okello Luwum as minister for lands and surveys, and J. Wapakabulo as minister for housing and urban development. A Kampala advocate, Obol Ochola, had earlier been named lands and survey minister, but he was not sworn in with other ministers last month and his name was quietly dropped from the Cabinet.

In another development, about 3,000 employees of Kampala City Council this afternoon called off a two-day strike after the minister for local government, Dr Edward Kakonge, met them and said he was overhauling the city administration, Edward Kitaka adds. Dr Kakonge said he was replacing the town clerk, Mr Sam Ochieng, with a veteran municipal administrator, Mr Ssessanga Mivule. Mr Ochieng was returning to his former duties in the ministry, he announced. The city council employees had downed tools on Monday morning claiming they had not been paid their salaries for three months. They also demanded the immediate sacking of Mr Ochieng, the city treasurer, Mr Vincent Oola, and other officials of the city authority.

SUNA: Okello Forces Flee Kitgum Town

EA121658 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1020 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Kampala 12 Mar (SUNA) — Reports from Northern Uganda have confirmed that civilians have abandoned Kitgum town on the Sudanese border [as received — town approximately 40 miles south of border] after the fall of Gulu town, which was controlled by Okello's opposing forces, last Saturday. Meanwhile, a priest stated that Okello's forces have fled toward the Zairian-Sudanese borders.

CAR

Japan Gives Grant to Ministry of Planning

AB102140 Bangui Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Excerpt] The excellent cooperation ties linking Japan to our country, CAR, was exalted this morning at the Ministry of Planning, Statistics and International Cooperation. Documents were exchanged relating to a subvention from Japan to our country involving a sum of 600 million yen, and equivalent of 150 million CFA as a contribution to the Ministry of Planning, Statistics and International Cooperation.

CHAD

Government Forces Repel Latest GUNT Offensive

PM111055 Paris LE MONDE in French 8 Mar 86 p 5

[Laurent Zecchini dispatch: "Libyans Strongly Criticized Allies for Retreating"]

[Text] Ndjamena — The Chadian National Armed Forces [FANT] regained the positions they held before the start of the fighting in the Kalait-Oum Chalouba area on Thursday 6 March after the new offensive by the pro-Libyan National Unity Transition Government [GUNT] forces. The final toll taken by these clashes was not yet known on Thursday evening, but the attackers suffered heavy losses, as they did during the 10-14 February first offensive. A dozen FANT members were killed and around 50 wounded — they were taken to Ndjamena. The prisoners — 360 according to a provisional count — are also now being moved toward the capital.

Apparently, more than 100 soldiers of the opposing National Liberation Army [ANL] were killed. This disproportion in the two camps' losses — confirmed by Western diplomatic sources — can be explained by a turn in the fighting. The column which had the job of attacking the Kalait base along a direct line, and then retreated when it learned that the troops from Oum Chalouba had made contact, was in fact caught and decimated by FANT units. The tactics by which the fighters speed through the desert in their Toyotas gives those fleeing little chance, and it is easy to imagine what happened to them when the Chadian soldiers gradually caught up with their enemies group by group.

A Chase

The FANT continued this chase as far as 100km north on the Kalait-Ito road and 82 km on the Kalait-Fada road, as far as Ouadi-Chili, the huge depression running west-east, located not far from Fadawhere the GUNT front line was deployed before this offensive.

According to Chadian military sources who had seen reports on the interrogation of prisoners, Goukouni Oueddei went to Ouadi-Chili in person to harangue the soldiers before the offensive started. Many of these soldiers had already fought in the battle which took place 10-14 February.

According to the same sources, the ANL troops returning northward after the FANT counteroffensive at Oum-Chalouba on 13 February were stopped by Libyan units around 30 km south of Fada and thus denied access to the large base which that area has become. Libyan officers strongly criticized them for abandoning large amounts of equipment in the field. Goukouni Oueddei had therefore come both to settle this problem and to try to persuade his own troops to return to combat, as their morale was at its lowest ebb.

The FANT were also surprised by the extent to which the ANL lacked heavy offensive equipment in this new offensive. According to Chadian military sources, only three or four Cascavel automatic machineguns supported the pro-Libyan forces' cross-country vehicles. One of them was captured by the FANT and another was destroyed.

In addition, members of Goukouni Oueddei's People's Armed Forces, and Acheikh ibn Oumar's Revolutionary Democratic Council [CDR] (the biggest armed component of the GUNT) played a direct part in the fighting. Their vehicles apparently have the letter "ANL" and "Jeisch" ("army" in Arabic) on their bodywork. The CDR's participation in the fighting, the Chadian military think, clearly shows that the Libyans are now calling on all their Chadian reserves and that, if they are still suffering defeats, Tripoli's army will sooner or later become involved in the fighting.

Foreign Minister Receives Congolese Envoy

AB111944 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Excerpt] A Congolese envoy arrived in Ndjamena this afternoon. He is (Ipo Sabaji), adviser to President Sassou-Nguesso on diplomatic affairs. He was received in audience this afternoon for more than an hour by the foreign minister, Gouara Lassou. No statement was made after the audience by the Congolese envoy, but it is likely that the visit by the Congolese envoy is linked with the situation prevailing in Chad, as it is known that the current OAU chairman, Abdou Diouf, and the Congolese head of state are presently meeting in Addis Ababa within the framework of the session of the OAU steering committee devoted to the Chadian issue.

CONGO

President Announces Reduction in 1986 National Budget

AB111431 Paris AFP in French 1357 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Brazzaville, 11 March (AFP) — Congo's 1986 budget which initially amounted to 417.39 CFA francs (1 CFA franc equals Fr0.002) could be readjusted to [figure indistinct], President Denis Sassou-Nguesso announced on Monday in Brazzaville. The Congolese head of state, who was addressing the participants in the congress of the Congolese Women's Revolutionary Union (URFC), said that this readjustment is necessary because of the decline of oil prices and the depreciation of the dollar resulting in a considerable decrease of Congo's export revenues.

ZAIRE

Prime Minister Comments on Meeting in Brussels

AB111935 Dakar PANA in French 1349 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Brussels, 11 Mar (AZAP/PANA) — Zairian Prime Minister Kengo wa Dondo stated on Sunday that the Brussels conference, which will end on Tuesday and is bringing together Zaire and its creditors, does not in any way replace the meetings of the Club of Paris or the Consultative Group of the World Bank. Rather it is aimed at making Zaire's partners, who had followed and appreciated for 3 years Zaire's efforts of rigor, to assist it in pursuing these efforts to revive its economy. Kengo wa Dondo, who arrived in the Belgian capital on Sunday to preside this over this conference jointly with Belgian Prime Minister Wilfred Martens, made this statement during his talk at the Stuyvenberg Castle with a correspondent of AZAP [ZAIRIAN NEWS AGENCY] and a journalist of BELGE [BELGIAN NEWS AGENCY].

The time has come, he said, when Zaire must not only cooperate with international institutions such as the World Bank and the IMF, but also with creditors who must participate in Zaire's efforts by acting in various ways which we will propose to them. The prime minister also pointed out that this meeting will also enable Zaire and its creditors to speak the same language at the Club of Paris or at the Consultative Group of the World Bank. Mr Kengo wa Dondo is disappointed that up to now the total sum of money received by Zaire is less than that paid by Zaire, despite the fact that all the criteria for appraisal agreed upon with the IMF have been strictly adhered to. He expressed the hope that state of affairs will be reversed at the end of the present meeting.

In answer to a question on the choice of Brussels to host this conference, Mr Kengo wa Dondo, after noting the substantial fall in Belgian investments in Zaire and pointing out that one Belgian franc invested in Zaire earns three times as much for Belgium, said that the special relations between Zaire and Belgium worked in favor of this venue.

Concerning relations between the two countries, the prime minister noted the feeling of frustration displayed by Belgium when other countries invest in Zaire. If Belgium does not want to play a key role, in spite of the liberalization measures we have adopted, Zaire must find other partners, which is only fair, he stated.

Finally, Mr Kengo wa Dondo asserted that the success of the current conference is somewhat a precondition for the success of the 5-year plan, the implementation of which depends equally on the resources which Zaire can get from its foreign partners.

Cooperation Agreement Signed With FRG

AB112050 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1757 GMT 11 MAR 86

[Text] Kinshasa, 11 Mar (AZAP) — Mobutu Nyiwa, secretary of state for international cooperation, and Walter Koenig, FRG ambassador, at the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation on Tuesday signed a cooperation agreement on three projects involving DM32 million. The projects involved are the construction of the Lubutu-Osakari road, the purchasing of five locomotives for the ONATRA [National Transportation Office] for the Matadi-Kinshasa railway, and the provision of drinking water for REGIDESO [Water and Power Distribution Administration] rural centers 1 and 2. Financing of these projects will be ensured by the German Credit Institute for Reconstruction (KWF).

The signing of this new agreement, it is stressed, once again testifies to the excellent cooperation relations existing between West Germany and Zaire. Mr Koenig, whose mission has come to an end, leaves Kinshasa on Tuesday after a 4-year stay.

BURKINA FASO

Finance Minister Barro Opens CEAO Fund Meeting

AB111650 Dakar PANA in French 1406 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Ouagadougou, 11 Mar (AIB/PANA) — Burkinabe Minister of Financial Resources Justin Damo Barro, on Monday [10 March] opened the deliberations of the board of directors of the alternate ministers of the Solidarity and Intervention Fund for the Development of the Community (FOSIDEC) [an organization of the West African Economic Community, CEAO]. The experts committee, the mainspring in FOSIDEC board of directors deliberations, is preparing the next CEAO summit scheduled from 26 to 27 March, 1986 in Ouagadougou.

Minister Barro urged the experts to assume their responsibilities in solidarity, which has always strongly linked the members of the community so the difficulties that we went through recently become a source of much greater strength for us.

GHANA

Bulgarian Economic Talks End; Protocal Signed

AB110808 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] The eight-member Bulgarian delegation to the session of the Ghana-Bulgaria Joint Commission for Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation, which ended in Accra last Friday, has flown back home. At the airport, the minister for construction, Professor Ivan Sakarev, who led the team, commended Ghana's economic achievements to other African countries fighting for economic emancipation. He said Ghana's economic achievements are encouragement to friendly countries willing to assist in the development programs to do so without hesitation.

At the end of the 4-day meeting, the two countries signed a $16 million protocol agreement. Under it, both countries will exchange goods worth $16 million. This means Ghana will export to Bulgaria $8 million worth of cocoa, timber, minerals, and other non-traditional products like pineapples. Bulgaria will on the other hand, give Ghana $8 million worth of inputs for an iceblock-making plant at Elmina, an irrigation project at Mankessim, and a piggery project at Assin Manso, all in the Central Region, as well as a quarry project in Greater Accra. Professor Sakarev said he is optimistic that the agreement will yield fruitful results for the benefit of the two countries.

Cape Verde Leader Stops Over, Meets Rawlings

AB110740 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] The president of the Cape Verde Islands, Mr Aristides Maria Pereira, made a brief stopover in Accra last night on his way home from Angola. He was met on arrival by the chairman of the PNDC [Provisional National Defnese Council], Flight Lieutenant Rawlings. The Cape Verde president was accompanied by his wife, Ms Kalina Pereira; the foreign minister, Mr Silvino da Luz; the interior minister, Mr (Cortino Cortes), and the deputy speaker of the Cape Verde National Assembly, Mr Dario Dantes.

Speaking to newsmen, President Pereira said he was happy to visit Ghana, a country which has contributed tremendously toward African liberation. However, it is unfortunate that trade relations between the two countries have not been developed over the years. On events in South Africa, President Pereira said the impasse can be resolved through dialogue.

On his part, the chairman of the PNDC said some amount of relations exist between Ghana and Cape Verde. He noted that there are not many obstacles in the way by which the two countries can improve relations. Chairman Rawlings added that what is needed now is close collaboration between the people of the two countries.

Present at the airport were Ms Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, Captain Kojor Tsikata, and Major General Arnold Quainoo, both members of the PNDC; the inspector general of police, Mr Seth Omane, and some members of the diplomatic corps.

Prosecution Witness Testifies in Coup Plot Trial

AB111843 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] More details have been given about the plot by some dissidents in Ghana and Togo to overthrow the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council]. This came out in testimony by a witness at the tribunal sitting in Accra today, in the case of a petrol station owner, Ambrose Afriyie, and a butcher, Alhaji Musa. A principal prosecution witness said sometime in 1982, Alhaji Musa visited him and informed him of the intention of some people residing in Togo to stage a coup. Musa gave the names of the dissidents as Colonel (Abintu), Colonel Yahaya, and Major Suleimana.

Alhaji Musa told him that on his way from Togo, he passed through the northern border and visited a mallam [traditional medicine man] and told him of the plan. According to the prosecution witness, the first accused contacted the witness to organize some of the soldiers under his command, so that dissidents promised to provide arms. The accused also mentioned the second accused — Afriyie — as one who would provided fuel for the operation.

The witness said the accused told him of the visit to the mallam in Kumasi. Consequently, the mallam was brought down to Accra. Alhaji Musa went to where the mallam was residing and after some rituals had been performed, the mallam told the first accused that their intention to overthrow the government was going to fail. The witness said the following day the mallam left for Tamale.

More Details Reported

AB112154 Accra Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Excerpts] More details have been given about the plot by some dissidents in Ghana and Togo to overthrow the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council]. The witness said the following day, the mallam left for Tamale. He said a few days later, he was arrested. A second prosecution witness corroborated the evidence of the first witness.

At another sitting of the public tribunal trying Muwuli Kofi Dra Goka and 14 others for preparing to overthrow the government, the first prosecution witness, a trader, told the tribunal that the first accused, Samuel Boamah Panyin, had some business connections with him under which boxes of wooden carvings for export were kept in his custody. But when he suspected that the contents of the boxes were guns, he asked Panyin to remove them immediately.

The second prosecution witness, a tailor, told the tribunal about how the seventh accused, Alanko, approached him to consult his soldier friend for guns. He complied and got someone who was prepared to sell him one for 30,000 cedis. Alanko therefore made an advance payment of 10,000 cedis. Asked where the money was, he replied: I gave half to a friend for safekeeping and the rest is in my house. The witness says Alanko came again with a man called Yaw to pass on 1,000 cedis to Alanko to be given to him, the witness.

The third witness, a night watchman and soothsayer, told the tribunal that about 6 months ago, the second accused, Yaw Breffi Berko, consulted him and asked to know his fate. After looking through the water, as he put it, the soothsayer asked him what his problem was. The second accused said he was planning a coup to overthrow the government. The witness then advised him to leave his premises immediately since he did not deal with such cases.

During cross-examination by the second accused who is defending himself, it came to light that he visited the soothsayer on the instructions of Captain Ampofo, who is now at large after escaping from a lawful arrest.

The tribunal continues sitting tomorrow.

IVORY COAST

UK Trade Mission Arrives in Abidjan 10 March

AB111239 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 0745 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Cooperation between the Ivory Coast and Great Britain is very healthy, particularly in the commercial sector. The total volume of trade between the Ivory Coast and Great Britain attained 62 billion CFA francs in 1985. The balance is positive for our country with 14 billion CFA francs for imports and 48 billion CFA francs for exports — essentially coffee, cocoa and timber. It is within the framework of further expanding the trade relations between the two countries that a trade mission from the London Chamber of Commerce and Industries arrived yesterday in our country.

A few hours after their arrival, the members of the mission were received in the afternoon by Toure Abdoulaye, the permanent undersecretary to the minister of commerce, with whom they examined all the possibilities and ways and means of opening and exploiting new avenues of trade. And the discussions they held yesterday with the permanent undersecretary to the minister of trade show, as leader of the delegation John (Dorell) said, that their visit to the Ivory Coast holds hope for the cooperation between our two countries

NIGERIA

Government Willing To Talk to Students in Manila

AB111548 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] The Federal Government says it is prepared to negotiate with the Nigerian students who occupied the country's embassy in Manila, the Philippines, as soon they vacate the embassy premises. The minister of external affairs, Professor Bolaji Akinyemi, told newsmen in Lagos today that the government was aware of the students' demands and was prepared to consider them. The government will, however, not negotiate under duress and unless the students handed the embassy to Nigerian diplomats there, negotiations will not be held. Prof Akinyemi said the ministry was in touch with Manila and assured the families of the staff of the Nigerian Embassy that they are all safe.

The students seized the embassy on Sunday to protest against their dissatisfaction with the attitude of Nigerian diplomats there. They said action [passage indistinct]. Prof Akinyemi said the state of the nation's economy is beyond the control of the embassy officials, stressing that Nigerians everywhere, should be ready to make sacrifices in the efforts to revamp the economy.

ANC Leader Tambo Arrives on 5-day Visit

AB110753 Dakar PANA in English 1448 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Lagos, 10 March (NAN/PANA) — The ANC leader, Mr Oliver Tambo, arrived in Nigeria today to begin a five-day official visit to the country.

During the visit, Mr Tambo will address newsmen at the Secretariat of National Committee Against Apartheid (NACAP) in Lagos. He will also have audience with President Ibrahim Babangida, External Affairs Minister Prof Bolaji Akinyemi and Defence Minister Maj Gen Domkat Bali.

ANGOLA

UNITA Ambush Kills Cuban, MPLA Officers

PA111700 Paris AFP in Spanish 1638 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Lisbon, 11 Mar (AFP) — The deaths of several Angolan and Cuban officers in an ambush south of Luanda was announced in Lisbon today by the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), armed opposition to the Luanda regime.

Jonas Savimbi's movement noted in a communique that the officers of the government troops killed include Major Praia Do Carmucho, chief of staff of the 7th Military Region (provinces of Kuanza Sul and Benguela), who was the commander of a column.

Major Garcia Hernandez, Cuban military adviser, as well as other officers and "dozens of Cuban and Angolan military" were also killed in the ambush laid between the city of Sumbe (capital of Kuanza Sul province) and the city of Gabela last Sunday.

Maj Carmucho studied at the Soviet Military Academy of Saoka and after his return to Luanda last December he was appointed chief of staff of the 7th Military Region in February, the UNITA communique added.

UNITA: 'Top-Level' Officer Killed

MB120720 Umtata Capital Radio in English
0700 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] The rebel UNITA movement is claiming to have killed a top-level Angolan military official. In a statement released in Lisbon the rebels say they have attacked a military column south of Luanda, allegedly killing a Soviet-trained commander, a Cuban military adviser, and several government troops. UNITA has identified the commander as Major (Pereira do Carmucho) and claims he was planning to mount an offensive against the guerrillas in Cuanza Province. UNITA has been fighting a guerrilla was against the Luanda governemnt for more than a decade. Earlier this year, U.S. President Ronald Reagan agreed to supply rebel leader Jonas Savimbi with military aid claiming it would help stem the growth of Soviet influence in the region.

BOTSWANA

Masire, Pereira Speak on Region at State Banquet

MB070639 Gaborone Domestic Service in English
0510 GMT 7 Mar 86

[Text] The president, Dr Quett Masire, has paid tribute to visiting President Aristides Pereira for his efforts in trying to find a negotiated solution to the problems in Angola and Namibia. Speaking at a state banquet held in honor of Mr Pereira last night at the Gaborone Sun, Dr Masire said the two issues had received much attention at the United Nations, the OAU, and the non-aligned conferences and were on the agenda of bilateral discussions of superpowers. Dr Masire said Mr Pereira's efforts and good offices added a valuable platform to the search for a negotiated settlement, and expressed the hope that this would lead to mutual trust and confidence so that there could be an earnest seach for accommodation.

The president told Mr Pereira that there had been some movement in the negotiations for the implementation of the UN Resolution 435 which forms the basis for the independence of Namibia. He expressed the hope that the movement represents a significance change in the attitudes of the South African Government and some members of the Contact Group of five Western countries. Dr Masire said it would be a pity that at this time hopes should be raised only to be dashed as was the case in the past.

For his part, President Pereira said that his visit to Botswana was the sign of the solidarity that exists between the people of Cape Verde and Botswana. He said that in spite of Botswana's correct and wise policy of preserving its sovereignty and territorial integrity as well as peace and stability, the vicinity with South Africa has revealed to be of bad consequence. Mr Pereira observed that the solidarity in the struggle that constituted the main force of the Frontline States was the guarantee of Botswana's success.

This morning, the Cape Verde president will visit the Botswana Meat Commission in Lobatse. He will be accompanied by the acting minister of external affairs, Mr Panatshego Kedikilwe. He will have lunch in Lobatse hosted by the minister of agriculture, Mr Daniel Kwelagobe. Mr Pereira will also visit (Horape) House in Gaborone this afternoon. He will also address a press conference at Radio Botswana at 0500 this evening. This will be followed by a cocktail party at the State Hosue.

Pereira Holds Press Conference

MB081106 Gaborone Domestic Service in English
1920 GMT 7 Mar 86

[Press conference given by Cape Verde President Aristides Pereira, moderated by (Margaret Nasher), director of information and broadcasting, in Gaborone on 7 March — recorded; in Portuguese followed by passage-by-passage translation into English; processed from the English]

[Excerpts] [(Nasher)] Mr (Chamussa).

[(Chamussa)] Your Excellency President Pereira: Yesterday, your delegation of the Cape Verde and the delegation of the Republic of Botswana had official talks. Would you like to give members of the press a rough idea of the area that were touched in your official discussions?

[Pereira] Obviously, I think that it would not be very courteous on our part to come here to inform you on the issues discussed with the Botswana delegation. However, I can tell you — with the permission of my brother and friend here, President Masire — that we had the opportunity to exchange points of view on all issues that preoccupy us and also to tell our brother and friend President Masire of our total solidarity as well as our desire to find the ways and means to establish efficient cooperation between our countries, thus strengthening the fraternal and friendly relations that already exists between our countries.

[(Nasher)] Mr (Ialy).

[(Ialy)] Your Excellency, Mr Pereira of Cape Verde, I have a very interesting question for you: Is it true that you give landing rights to South African Airways? And if you do, why? It is on record that [words indistinct] trying to bury apartheid. How do you reconcile allowing landing rights and at the same time trying to push it to (?the wall)? How are you trying to [words indistinct] South Africa a (?wasteland)? Why are you trying to keep it out?

[Pereira] This is an old question. Immediately after our independence in 1975, 10 years ago, we had this problem: We found a country falling apart in all respects — the economic, social, cultural, and even the moral respect. This made us see that we had an enormous task in front of us if we wanted to save our people and our country, as well as lay the foundations to turn into a viable country. This forced us — after our armed struggle for liberation lasting nearly 14 years — to make an analysis as profound and realistic as possible of the existing situation and the measures to be taken. Among all the questions we had, we had this inheritance from the colonial system. The Portuguese colonialists built an international airport on one of our islands. It is the only international airport in our country. This airport was built precisely to be used by South African Airways. Thus, we were faced with this question: Should we forbid the landings or not? We analyzed this as responsible leaders in front of their people and we arrived at the conclusion that we should not forbid the landings, becuase it was a measure that would not help in any way the struggle of the South African people. In this respect, we were careful enough as loyal brothers in arms to discuss this problem with our ANC brothers. I think that in Africa no one is more interested in this issue than they are. We discussed the problem and they found our position to be just. Given the position of our ANC comrades, we informed the OAU about our position in this regard and of course the issue was to be submitted and appreciated by the OAU. Thus, in 1978 the OAU created a commission for sanctions against South Africa and it sent a subcommission to Cape Verde to familiarize itself with our reasons. This subcommision stayed in Cape Verde for a number of days, it made every official contact it desired, traveled all over the country, and it presented a report to that commission. This report was presented to the heads of state for consideration during the 1979 summit in Monrovia. After studying the report, the heads of state at the meeting approved a resolution — OAU Resolutuon 734 of 1979 — in which they include Cape Verde in the group of countries which had no means to implement sanctions against South Africa. This means that our decision was covered and supported by this OAU Resolution. Given that we also fought for the liberation in our country, we believe that suicidal solidarity should never be demanded, and I think it was very well understood not only by our ANC brothers but also by the whole of Africa represented by its heads of state at the OAU Monrovia summit of 1979.

Pereirat Departs; Communique Issued

MB090546 Gaborone Domestic Service in English
1125 GMT 8 Mar 86

[Text] The Department of External Affairs has issued a communique at the end of a 3-day visit of Cape Verde President Mr Aristides Maria Pereira.

During his stay in Botswana, President Pereira held official discussions with the president, Dr Quett Masire, on bilateral issues and on the situation in southern Africa in general and on South Africa in particular. The two presidents briefed each other on the economic and political developments in their respective countries, especially the ever increasing imminent drought and famine conditions prevailing in the two countries which hamper the process of development.

Turning to the situation in Southern Africa, the two leaders observed that the hopes and aspirations of the people of South Africa and Namibia have not been fulfullied due to the intransigence of the South African Government to abolish apartheid and usher in a new era of majority rule in south Africa and Namibia. They noted that the countries neighboring South Africa were living under the threat of attack from South Africa, the pretext being that they harbor the guerrillas fighting the South African regime.

On Namibia, President Pereira and Dr Masire took note of the recent announcement by the South African Government that UN Security Council Resolution 435 of 1978 would be implemented in August this year but they unreservedly rejected the precondition attached to the announcement that the implementation of Resolution 435 would depend on the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola. They said the presence of Cuban troops in Angola was extraneous to the question of independence of Namibia.

The two presidents reiterated their commitment to a negotiated settlement to the Namibian problem and, in this connection, President Masire paid tribute to Mr Pereira for offering his good offices in trying to resolve problems for Namibia and Angola and for dedicating his mission to Botswana, to peace for the region and the world at large.

Regarding the situation in South Africa, the two leaders expressed their revulsion at the loss of life in that country and said it was time the South African authorites realized that they are about to reach a stage in the history of their country where there would be not enough force left to forever suppress the will of the majority of the people in the country to achieve their desired just cause.

The two leaders observed that the causes of solutions to the volative situation prevailting in South Africa can only be found inside that country and not elsewhere. In this connection, President Pereira expressed solidarity with the people of Botswana in the light of the South African threat (?to) our national sovereignty and independence.

On sanctions against South Africa, Dr Masire and Mr Pereira reiterated their commitment to OAU resolution which recognized the inability of countries in southern Africa and Cape Verde to impose economic sanctions against South Africa.

The two leaders also observed that political stability in southern Africa was the only base through which the ideals of SADCC could be realized, as it is indeed needed in West Africa for the success for the Economic Community of West African States. They said the two economic groupings had similar objectives which included the economic upliftment of the member states.

President Pereira, accompanied by his wife, the Cape Verde first commander and minister of foreign affairs, Mr Silvino da Luz, and senior government officials, left Gaborone for Mozambique this morning for a 3-day working visit at the invitation of President Samora Machel. They were seen off at the airport by the president, Dr Maisre, and the first lady, Mrs Gladys Masire, the vice president, Mr Peter Mmusi, and Mrs Mmusi, Cabinet ministers, the chief justice, Mr (Brian Queen), the executive secretary of SADCC, Dr Simba Makoni, members of the diplomatic corps, and senior government officials including the permanent secretary to the president, Mr Mogae.

Before his departure, President Pereira inspected a guard of honor and was entertained by traditional dancers from Taung and Tswarang primary schools in Gaborone north.

In his final words to President Masire, Mr Pereira said he was impressed by the warm and rousing welcome extended to him and praised the hospitality he enjoyed while in Botswana He said his 3-day stay here will remain in his memory throughout his life.

In reply, Dr Masire said he was thankful that President Pereira did not consider himself too far to visit Botswana.

LESOTHO

Maj Gen Lekhanya Criticizes Joanthan Government

MB111555 Maseru Domestic Service in English
1130 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] The chairman of the Military Council of Lesotho and the Council of Ministers, His Excellency Major General Justinus Metsing Lekhanya, says as the army they were deeply perturbed by events that worsened towards the close of 1985 in Lesotho and had to intervene. In his address at the military parade, to mark the bicentenary of the great King Moshoeshoe I at the Pitso Ground in Maseru today, Maj Gen Lekhanya said one of these perturbing events was the presence within the army itself of a rebel group which the then Jonathan regime seemed to regard as the lawful army.

He said this group, that was led by their then colleague, the late Colonel Sidwell Sehlabo, among other things robbed banks and people of their money and other possessions, broke into businesses, stole people's vehicles, raped women, and above all elected to kill and maim anyone it pleased them to. Maj Gen Lekhanya said in addition to this renegade faction within the army, the so-called Youth League of the Basotho National Party [BNP] and other functionaries in the villages were given thousands of guns which the army has repossessed and continue to recapture. He pointed out that these weapons were dished out to these people without the knowledge or concurrence of the Armed Forces and the police, who are lawful custodians of law and order. He said brutal killings, lack of respect for property, and general vandalism became the order of the day.

Maj Gen Lekhanya pointed out that the military was even more outraged when it became clear that the government of the day looked upon this horrifying events with disregard and passivity. He said the persecutors of the man in the street were the government itself and the government was the BNP Youth League. He said even some members of the BNP were beginning to taste this bitter portion. He invited them to join hands with the army in promoting genuine peace and stability in the country. Maj Gen Lekhanya said as a dictate of common justice all perpetrators of these gross injustices will be brought to the courts of law at the earliest.

He said prior to the fall of the last government Lesotho was under a dark cloud resulting from the unilateral closure of the borders by her only neighbor. He said instead of resorting to diplomatic initiatives a cacophony of obscenities was spewed over Radio Lesotho against anyone the past government was not pleased with, including the government of the neighboring country as well as the governments of other countries. Maj Gen Lekhanya said that this did not come as a surprise to most of us because a young delinquent was let loose on the entire national information machienry. He pledged that the military government will not conduct the affairs of the state in this manner, but it will resort to diplomacy and negotiation with anyone provided that will directly benefit the people of this country.

Touching on the financial position of the country, Maj Gen Lekhanya said the last report by the auditor general was made in 1978 and nothing was done in the intervening years. He said urgent inquiries have revealed that the national debt is somewhere in the region of 100 million maluti. He said inquiries are continuing and suspicion is that the worst is yet to come.

Maj Gen Lekhanya accused the BNP of propounding ideologies alien to Basotho and their way of life. He said these alien ideologies precipitated wanton acts of murder and thuggery which the BNP government used as tools for the resolution of conflict. He pointed out that there was complete absence of government in Lesotho and the army therefore toppled nothing, but merely filled an obvious gap. He said the previous government used to publicly ridicule our traditional partners in development and if they retaliated by withdrawing their aid, the poor people in the villages would suffer. He said, however, the new government shall not exchange the sovereignty of Lesotho for any money or amount of foreign aid. But if such aid is given as a result of cooperation in the spirit of mutual interest, the government will continue to foster such relationships, especially if the ultimate beneficiaries are the people themselves.

In conclusion, Maj Gen Lekhanya thanked the military for their unswerving loyalty to His Majesty King Moshoeshoe II and the country. He reminded them that they are in the driver's seat and consequently their popularity and acceptance shall derive from their service to the nation. He declared that from today, the army in Lesotho shall be known as the Royal Lesotho Defense Force.

More than 60,000 people, the largest crowd ever recorded in Maseru, attended and cheered the Major general's speech.

MOZAMBIQUE

MNR Attacks Maputo Suburbs; 3 Reported Killed

MB111530 Umtata Capital Radio in English
1500 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] The rebel Mozambique National Resistance army appears to be creating a no-man's-land around Maputo. The Portuguese news agency reports guerrillas have attacked several suburban targets, killing three people and destroying a bus.

The raids are reported to have occurred before the U.S. under secretary of state for African Affairs, Frank Wisner, arrived in Maputo. Mr Wisner is in the Mozambican capital to discuss American aid and an independence settlement for Namibia.

An MNR spokesman says they are turning Maputo's suburbs into a vacuum where, he says, the guerrillas will move at will. Embassy staff in the capital are said to have restricted movement, moving to the city center with military escorts. During the past months, three people have lost legs after stepping on mines allegedly planted by the MNR on the city's beaches.

Eight 'Bandits' Killed

MB120536 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
0400 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] AIM has reported that units of the armed forces shot and killed eight bandits in two different areas in the outskirts of Maputo City on Monday night. A military source told AIM that five bandits were shot and killed in the Matola area when they attempted to destroy the Tudor dry battery and car battery factory and the Ceres biscuit factory. The criminals set fire to a passenger bus in the same area. The bus was traveling with no passengers on the Namaacha freeway. Both the driver and the conducter escaped unhurt. Another armed bandit group was also repelled by our troops in the Machava area. Three gangsters were shot dead during clashes with the Mozambique Armed Forces.

SOUTH AFRICA

'Text' of Statement on CBS-Stoffel Botha Meeting

MB111641 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1628 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Cape Town, Mar 11, SAPA — This is the full text of the joint statement issued by the minister of home affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, and CBS News concerning their discussions held in Cape Town yesterday and today over a government order that three CBS newsmen leave the country:

"Representatives of CBS News met yesterday and today in Cape Town with Mr Stoffel Botha, the South African minister of home affairs, and the deputy minister of information.

"The meeting followed the issue of notices by Mr Botha ordering the removal from South Africa of the chief of the CBS News bureau in South Africa, Mr W.E. Mutschmann, correspondent Allen Pizzey and cameraman Wim de Vos. With his notice, Minister Botha also issued a statement that CBS news had disregarded an order of the Supreme Court in South Africa and was determined to disregard South African laws in order to obtain film material which ... often leads to a one-sided and false account of conditions in the country.

"The CBS NEWS representatives were headed by Mr David Buksbaum, vice-president of news coverage and operations, and included a South African legal adviser for CBS News. Mr Buksbaum had flown from New York especially for these meetings. The CBS team expressed appreciation for the opportunity to discuss this matter in a frank manner.

"There was mutual agreement on the following:

"A. The police order precluding the taking of television equipment and cameras into Alexandra was made the night before the commemoration service was due to begin. The order was not in existence when CBS News and other news organizations made an application to the Supreme Court on the evening before the funeral.

"B. The Supreme Court, recognising the validity of the police order, dismissed the application by CBS news and the other television networks to conform their right to take camera equipment into Alexandra on 5 March 1986 to photograph the funeral.

"C. CBS News obtained videotape material of the funeral from an undisclosed source, being aware that the taking into Alexandra of the equipment used to film the funeral, might have been illegal. This videotape material was broadcast by CBS News.

"D. CBS News, without admitting that it had wilfully broken any law, concedes that the South African Government could have had grounds to regard this action as a defiance of a South African court order. CBS News accepts that more care could have been exercised in the handling of the videotape material.

"CBS News expressed its regrets for any misunderstandings on its part.

"E. As regards the inference drawn by Minister Botha, based upon comments by a senior executive of CBS as reported in various U.S. news media to the effect that, in Minister Botha's words, CBS is determined to disregard South African laws, Mr Bukbaum gave the assurance that this is not the case and that the CBS News guidelines pertinent to coverage in South Africa call upon the networks journalists to obey all bona fide orders of proper law enforcement officials. Mr Buksbaum also gave the assurance that CBS will in future, as far as possible, ensure that material obtained and used by them from whatever source, is not tainted with illegality. He furthermore stressed that CBS News policy standards are aimed at ensuring that the presence of CBS News personnel in situations of unrest does not add to the problems encountered by those charged with maintaining order.

"The minister accepted these assurances and cancelled the orders of removal."

Ends statement

Financial Statement on National States Released

MB080802 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 8 Mar 86

[Text] The South African Development Trust spent 112.3 million rand on employment and the creation of revenue in the six national states in the 1984-85 financial year. Details of the income and expense accounts of the trust were published in the government gazette in the form of a proclamation today. The total budget of the trust came to 509 million rand. An amount of 128.5 million was spent on the acquisition of land and settling of black people.

Reserve Bank Issues February Report

MB080557 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1228 GMT 7 Mar 86

[Text] Pretoria, March 7, SAPA — The total gold holdings of the SA Reserve Bank dropped by R510,349,904 to R3,037,855,355 at the end of February, the bank said today.

Foreign investments and assets dropped by R50,059,888 to stand at R1,133,758,174, according ot the bank's monthly statement released in Pretoria.

Total gold and foreign assets were valued at R4,336,727,504, R566,789,546 lower than the previous month. Gold reserves at February were valued at R613.28 per fine ounce compared with R729.97 at the end of January.

Notes in circulation rose by R60,842,351 to stand at R4,004,409,513.

Government deposits jumped by R1,477,279,088 to stand at R1,681,479,833, and deposits by provincial administrations increased by R26,252,640 to R53,823,391.

Deposits by banks increased by R1,110,587, to R973,436,163.

The ratio of gold reserves to the public, less foreign assets, stood at 42.8 percent compared with 54.1 percent at the end of January.

194 Detainees Being Held Under Security Act

MB111309 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1302 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Pretoria, March 11, SAPA — There were 194 detainees being held under the Internal Security Act, a spokesman for the Police Directorate of Public Relations said in Pretoria today. Of this number, 133 were being held under Section 50 of the act which provides for indefinite detention of a suspect for purposes of interrogation.

IRR Says 670 People Die During Emergency

MB092014 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1914 GMT 7 Mar 86

[Text] Cape Town, March 7, SAPA — An estimated 670 people died during the 220 days of the state of emergency which ended today, an average of almost three a day, according to figures compiled by the SA Institute of Race Relations [IRR].

But a definitive tally will probably never be made, says the IRR, which has been keeping a record of unrest-related deaths since the emergency was imposed in July last year.

According to the an IRR spokesman, the number of injured was "enormous" and impossible to calculate since many of those wounded in clashes with the police or faction fights sought private treatment for their wounds.

However, the spokesman said the official figure for those injured in unrest gave an indication of the real casualty roll — 3658 people injured between September 1984 and February this year, an average of about seven a day.

According to a spokesman for the Police Division of Public Relations in Pretoria, a total of 7996 people were detained during the emergency.

All detainees held under emergency regulations were released today, with the exception of those who are to be charged with public violence and other acts of lawlessness, police said.

The Detainees Parents Support Committees [DPSC] figures on emergency detainees largely agrees with official figures.

A spokesman for the DPSC said today that according to their records "just under 8000" people had been detained in terms of emergency regulations and that the vast majority of these had been released.

"We understand that those not released are to be charged. We know of 30 people from Modder Bee Prison (near Benoni East of Johannesburg), eight people from Johannesburg prison and quite a few who were arrested in Alexandra at the start of the trouble there last month, who are to be charged.

"Most will be charged with public violence, we believe," said the spokesman.

The spokesman said others were still being held "under other pieces of legislation."

Boesak, Government 'Expert' Speak on Emergency

MB081049 London BBC World Service in English
0709 GMT 8 Mar 86

[From the "24 hours" program]

[Text] The lifting of the state of emergency in South Africa has been greeted with derision by opponents of apartheid, the feeling being that the (?words) alone won't help resolve entrenched racial hostilities. But it is better than nothing. Peter Snow, of BBC television, sought the views of two leading spokesmen on each side of South Africa's racial divide, the Reverend Allan Boesak, President of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches and prominent antiapartheid campaigner, and Dr Stoffel van der Merwe, a government law and order expert. First Dr van Der Merwe.

[Begin recording] [Snow] What did the emergency actually achieve?

[Van der Merwe] Well, I would say that the state of emergency has achieved a better control over the situation of unrest. Perhaps it is not necessarily so that the unrest has subsided so slightly. It has subsided markedly and I do not think the death toll as such is the best measure of the level of the violence that is taking place.

[Snow] Allan Boesak, would you accept that the level of violence has subsided during the state of emergnecy?

[Boesak] I wouldn't say so. In the beginning of the state of emergency what do the statistics say? 1.8 persons per day, I think, and now it's about 3.6 persons per day and it is rising. [sentence as heard] It seems to me that the state of emergency has not been able, with all of the incredible and fighting powers given to the security forces, to really calm down the situation. Rather, I would say, that there are more tensions now than I remember there being last July.

[Snow] Dr van der Merwe, in what sense would you say that the government may be trying to create — by ending the state of emergency — an atmosphere that will set negotiations going with the Africans?

[Van der Merwe] The state of emergency or the existence of a state of emergency was quoted very often by black and other nonwhite leaders as being an impedance towards the coming together at a conference table to discuss the future of South Africa and I think this was a major consideration for the government to lift the state of emergency, to create this climate in view of the repeated requests day after day that the state of emergency should be lifted and the governemnt has now done this with a view to creating the climate for discussions about the political future for South Africa.

[Snow] Dr Boesak, would you accept that the lifting of the sate of emergency has at least created something of an atmosphere for the negotiations with the blacks which the government would now like to pursue?

[Boesak] No. First of all, I must just say I disagree completely with Dr van der Merwe as he talks about our efforts toward peaceful change in this country. He knows as well as I do that we have had any number of occasions in the last year only where everything was extremely peaceful even in highly emotion situations like a funeral and it was time after time after time, always, and then the police come on to the scene. When they interfere and when they begin to intimidate people, that is when the violence starts and there are numerous occasions which can prove that. Secondly, I would like to say that we are not talking about negotiations now. What the South African Government does is this: It says everything remains within the framework of our policies. Apartheid must remain unchanged. They are not willing to dismantle...

[Van der Merwe, interrupting] The government has never (?said) that...

[Boesak, interrupting] No, Dr van der Merwe, give me a chance. The South African Government is not dismantling apartheid and you know it. All...

[Snow, interrupting] Dr van der Merwe, just come in for a moment. Let's just have him come in for a moment. Dr van der Merwe.

[Van der Merwe] The point is that Dr Boesak says that the government says that all negotiaions must take place in the framework of apartheid and the government has never said that. The government has said that apartheid is outmoded and is being abandoned.

[Boesak] We are not playing around with words here. It is not a question of whether apartheid is outmoded, it is a question of whether the South African Government actually has the political will and the power and the ability to say to South Africa's people and to make not only the announcements which sound so nice but to take the practical political steps which will break down the system of apartheid and I am talking about scrapping the Population Registration Act, I am talking about scrapping all discriminatory legislation, I am talking about scrapping the Homelands Act, I am talking about creating those institutions which will guarantee equality of all people and I'm talking about unbanning all of the political organizations so that we can begin to talk to each other as equals and say to each other now: We have to negotiate in terms of a new constitution.

[Van der Merwe] Any of these points which we have mentioned can be brought to the conference table as valid points on the agenda.

[Boesak] Now...

[Van der Merwe interrupting] Because otherwise if we have to wait until all these things could have been abandoned, for instance, then we will have to wait another 5 years.

SUNDAY TRIBUNE Comments

MB090511 Johannebsurg SAPA in English
1601 GMT 8 Mar 86

[Text] Durban, March 8, SAPA — The lifting of the state of emergency was an acknowledgement that nothing had been gained by its imposition but that much was lost to bitterness at home and repugnance abroad, the *SUNDAY TRIBUNE* said in an editorial today.

"Would that we could acclaim the end to the state of emergency as a return to a peaceful, stable society. That there are continuing bombings, township necklace murders, stonings of motorists and clashes between civilians and members of the security forces, suggests that the rescinding of the emergency proclamation with all its attendant restrictions on personal liberties, is politically expedient: an acknowldedgment that nothing was gained by the invocation of such draconian measures but that much was lost to bitterness at home and repugnance abroad.

"We welcome its end. We do not believe it should have been, and we hope that its lifting will see an immediate and impressive scaling down of unrest. Above all, we hope that the authorities will content themselves with using the vast powers they have already to handle violence and make an immediate start to rebuilding contact and trust so that peace can be restored through negotiation. [no end quotation marks as received]

The *SUNDAY TRIBUNE* said what the country did not need was more legislation to invest the security forces with authority that would further erode access to the courts and freedom of movement and association.

"Such legislation would be catastrophic in its impact on a world never before more hostile and more determined to see an end to apartheid and all its repressive trappings. To scrap the emergency and replace it with a police state would be to invite disaster.

"For years prime ministers and presidents have been mouthing platitudes about reform and buying time from those who wish to see peaceful change with cries of: Give us six months. But the gullibility of free world leaders has been tried beyond the level of their tolerance. Their call is for action, not promises. They are clearly watching with great attention and increasing impatience for signs of significant change.

"There is a lesson in the events of the past year. It is that South Africa can no longer bluff its own people, that it cannot bluff the free world, that it must examine its warts with courage and realism, and excise all those that are malignant.

"For far too long the rulers here have been playing an Alice-like game of unreality with the people and themselves. They have selected carefully only those parts of policy statements by Western governemnts that have promised hope and time, and have ignores the condemnations. The effect has been to turn the nation into a kind of overgrown autistic child cut off from the world in which it has to live, frustrating those who would care for it, and growing dangerously remote, complacent and introspective," it said.

"It cannot continue. The bankers have shown how desperately serious those with a real interest in South Africa's future have become. While governemnt apologists have sought to interpret the Leutwiler deal as having restored relations with foreign banks to "financial fundamentals" — a classic example of the autistic syndrome — the bankers themselves leave no room at all for misunderstanding. Barclays, its vested interest incontrovertible, replies with a clear warning that its concern goes beyond South Africa's indebtedness: There will be no more rescheduling of debts until the government has confirmed it is ending apartheid.

"It would be madness to ignore such statements, madness to believe that semantics and deceit will succeed now as it has done in the past.

"Everybody agrees that apartheid is outdated. No one agrees it is dead. It must end. The way to end it with goodwill and the promise of peace is to persuade credible blacks to come to the conference table with an agenda that is open," said the *SUNDAY TRIBUNE*.

Police Confirm Arrest of Bomb Suspect's Sister

MB111818 Johannesbrug SAPA in English 1746 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Pretoria, March 11, SAPA — Police tonight confirmed that Miss Debbie Sparg, sister of former Journalist Miss Marion Sparg, has been detained under Section 29 of the Internal Security Act.

A spokesman of the SAP Public Relations Division in Pretoria told SAPA that Miss Debbie Saprg was beign questioned in connection with the explosions and limpet mines in various police stations in Johannesburg and East London.

Miss Debbie Sparg is a sister of Miss Marion Sparg who was detained in connection with the John Vorster Square explosions and the Hillbrow incident in which an unexploded device was found in the toilets of the Hillbrow Police Station.

Commonwealth Group Pays Surprise Visit to Durban

MB111341 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1300 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] The Commonwelath Eminent Persons group has made a surprise stopover in Durban. The city was not included on the original itinerary. The leader of the 7-member group and former Australian premier, Malcolm Fraser, says the gorup is keeping a low profile, and will not be talking to the press.

A dinner was held in their honor, which was attended by a number of leading figures, including UDF [United Democratic Front] President Archie Gumede. Mr Gumede has praised the delegates as seven well-informed people who appear to have a balanced outlook.

They arrived in South Africa several weeks ago, and have since had talks with the state president and several other top government ministers.

U.S. Bishops Denied Visas for Fact-Finding Trip

MB110719 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] A report from Detroit says six American Lutheran bishops have been denied visas to enter South Africa and South-West Africa for a 3-week fact-finding mission. This was to have begun this week. The group had planned to meet government officials, American corporate executives, and church leaders.

Further on Banning of UDF Members Jack, Fazzie

UDF Condemns Banning

MB111535 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1517 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Johannesburg, March 11, SAPA — The National Executive of the United Democratic Front [UDF] has strongly criticized the banning in Port Elizabeth today of Mr Mkhuseli Jack and Mr Henry Fazzie.

A UDF statement issued to SAPA in Johannesbrug today said: "The banning and house arrest of two senior UDF members is part of a continuing onslaught against the UDF and its affiliates. These bannings confirm our view that the lifting of the state of emergency was merely an attempt to placate international opinion. We want to warn the government that we are determined to bring an end to apartheid whatever the cost. Repression will be answered with renewed determiantion," it said.

AZAPO Says Banning 'Intolerable'

MB111543 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1408 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Johannesburg, March 11, SAPA — The Azanian People's Organization [AZAPO] has condemned today's banning of Mr Mkhuseli Jack and Mr Henry Fazzie, calling the move intolerable.

In a statement to SAPA, AZAPO's president, Mr Saths Cooper, said: It is intolerable that at this stage in this country's history, the government can still have effrontry to ban anti-apartheid activists like Mr Fazzie and Mr Jack. Every day it is becoming more evident that the government's message is. We will not tolerate extra-parliamentary opposition, we only understand the language of violence," he said.

The government will have to take full responsibility for this provocative active action, he added.

Cape Chamber Criticizes Bannings

MB111529 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1528 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Port Elizabeth, March 11, SAPA — The banning of two influential black leaders in the eastern Cape, Mr Mkhuseli Jack and Mr Henry Fazzie, has left commerce and industry aghast.

The director of the Port Elizabeth Chamber of Commerce, Mr Tony Gilson, said today the chamber would "as a matter of urgency, carefully consider what action it is going to take."

In a statement, the president of the East Cape Branch of the United Democratic Front, Mr Edgar Ngoyi, said they had learnt "with great anger and a sense of dismay of the grossly vindictive banning orders."

He said the orders were aimed at "doing away with the democratic voices of our people."

"We are growing more and more sick of the way repression is orchestrated in the name of law and order.

"Our people are rapidly becoming disillusioned with the legal apparatus which maintains this illegal system. We will not be silenced. Our voices will be heard and well will win our freedom."

He said the act would "sew the seeds of deep discontent and fuel the flames of the current resistance waged by our people until democracy is restored in our country."

Mr Gilson said: "We greet this banning news with shock and dismay. A carefully cultivated climate of negotiation is now in extreme jeopardy.

"Causes need to be established — not the symptoms tackled. What we need is a process of true negotiation between all groups."

"We question the wisdom of serving the orders on Mr Jack and Mr Fazzie. We have been involved in negotiations with them and the communities they represent. The consultations, we believe, were aimed at finding a solution to the problems facing the eastern Cape and South Africa."

He said the chamber believed that the rule of law and the administration of justice should be safeguarded by the courts. It was opposed to detention without trial.

The Progressive Federal Party MP for Walmer, Mr Andrew Savage, reacted with dismay and anger at the bannings.

He said he had planned to see Mr Jack and Mr Fazzie tomorrow.

"I regard them as legitimate leaders of the black community and I believe their banning is short-sighted and seriously damaging to race relations in South Africa," Mr Savage said.

"Both of these people have the status of national figures and represent genuine leadership among the majority section of our community."

Mrs Judy Chalmers, chairman of Black Sash in the east Cape region, said: "Black Sash is absolutely appalled. The past six months have proved that these men represent effective, disciplined leadership at a time when South Africa needs it most.

"It would seem that at attempt has been made to silence the voice of democracy.

The president of the Midland Chamber of industries, Mr Bill Oddy said: "The banning orders are quite ridiculous. Now is the time when communication is absolutely essential."

Boesak Views Bannings

MB120448 Johannesburg SAPA in English
2157 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Port Elizabeth, March 11, SAPA — Before the five year banning order imposed today on civil rights leaders Mr Mkuseli

Jack and Mr Henry Fazzie expired, all South Africans would have been living "happily with our fellow comrades under a government of the people," Dr Allan Boesak, president of the World Allaince of Reformed Churches, said tonight.

He was speaking at a memorial service in Port Elizabeth for those who died during the state of emergency that was also attended by the five member Commonwealth Eminent Persons Group.

He called on students, teachers and parents to cooperate in taking the initiative in changing the South African educational system, calling on student to name all schools after the heroes and teachers to teach African poetry and African history.

To chants of "Viva-Boesak," he said: "When I come to Port Elizabeth again next month I would not like to hear about David Livingstone High School. But Nelson Mandela or Oliver Tambo high."

A moment of silence was observed in memory of those who died and candles were lit during the service.

UDF, PFP Condemn Banning

MB120453 Johannesburg SAPA in English
2255 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Port Elizabeth, March 11, SAPA — The United Democratic Front [UDF] has warned that the banning of Mr Mkhuseli Jack and Mr Henry Fazzie today increased the likelihood of the consumer boycott being reimposed.

Mr Fazzie, regional vice president of the UDF and Mr Jack, co-ordinator of the Port Elizabeth Consumer Boycott Committee, and president of the Port Elizabeth Youth Congress, (PEYCO), were served with banning orders today.

April 1 is the deadline sent for the government to meet the demands of the boycott committee.

The decision to temporarily lift the boycott was in line with an ultimatum issued by Commonwealth leaders in November 1985, which gave the country six months to end apartheid before economic sanctions were instituted.

"For sure these acts are likely to influence even more the likelihood of the consumer boycott being resumed and we will definitely understand people's reasons for doing so," a statement read on behalf of the regional president of the UDF, Mr Edgar Ngoyi, said.

"This arbitrary act will for sure sow the seeds of discontent and fuel the flames of general resistance which can never rest until democracy is restored in our country."

Mr Jack's employer, Mr Rory Riordon, said the banning order perfectly defined white South Africans as the last tribe of savages in Africa.

"If ever you wanted one document to reveal the moral, legal and intellectual bankruptcy of our society, this one is it.

"...Any white man who could authorise such a document is throwing away his children's future in our country.

"The banning order effectively makes it impossible for Mkhuseli to do his job as he has done for the last two years and renders it impossible for him to enjoy companionship and life in the normal sense that a human being is entitled to."

The regional chairman of the Progressive Federal Party [PFP], Mr Ronnie Kaplan, said with a decision on the reintroduction of the boycott pending it was important all lines of communication be kept open to ensure grievances were heard and acted upon.

"To talk about reform and at the same time inhibit the leaders of the community from expressing their point of view is sheer folly.

"In fact President (Mr P.W.) Botha has taken half a step forward but the law and order clique in his cabinet have taken ten steps backward."

Mr Koos Alberts, the chairman of the Afrikaanse Sakekamer [Afrikaans Chamber of Commerce] in Port Elizabeth, said he accepted there had been a good reason for the banning orders served on Mr Jack And Mr Fazzie.

However, the thought the banning and the timing of the banning could create doubt about the government's intentions.

"One can only hope that it would not be used as another excuse to start the violence and the boycotts again," said Mr Alberts.

Catholic Bishops Condemn Banning

MB120445 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1823 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Johannesburg, March 11, SAPA — The ban placed on anti-apartheid campaigners Mr Mkuseli Jack and Mr Henry Fazzie would only postpone the possibility of peace in South Africa, the Southern African Catholic Bishops Conference [SACBC] said in a statement today.

"Such actions can only serve to fuel the already volatile passions of the people in the troubled eastern Cape and further postpone the possibility of peace in South Africa," it said.

"This is no time to choke the angry voices of the victims of apartheid. Their voices must be heard and must be heard now."

The SACBC said the banning "of such popular leaders" appears to be in contradiction with the lifting of the state of emergency.

"We know Mkuseli to be a man of peace. We know him and Henry Fazzie to be two of the many vital voices which the government should be listening to," it said.

Allan Boesak Granted Short-Term Travel Document

MB111551 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1546 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Cape Town, Mar 11, SAPA — Dr Allan Boesak, President of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, has been granted a short-term travel document to attend the funeral of the assassinated Swedish prime minister, Mr Olof Palme.

The minister of home affairs, Mr Stoffel Botha, announced this in a press statement today saying he had received a request from Dr Boesak yesterday.

Dr Boesak's telexed request said he had been invited to the funeral and memorial service of Mr Palme to be held in Stockholm on March 15.

"In order to reply I would have to know whether you would be willing to release my passport."

Dr Boesak, who is facing charges of treason, was required to surrender his passport to the police under his original bail conditions.

When he applied for a relaxation of the bail conditions the court ordered that the passport be returned to him.

However, before the passport could be returned to him, Mr Botha withdrew it.

Chief Buthelezi Says School Segregation 'Suicidal'

MB080553 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0108 GMT 8 Mar 86

[Text] Pinetown, March 8, SAPA — It was suicidal for South Africa to continue excluding blacks from the best educational institutions Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi said at the whites-only Edgewood College of education's annual diploma ceremony in pinetown today.

The KwaZulu chief minister and Inkatha president called on educationalists to honour their calling and pressure the government into allowing places like this teacher training college to be opened to blacks soon.

It was such segregationist practices which combined to create a climate of revolution, he said.

Every educationist knew there was no prospect whatsoever of the teaching profession relying on whites. It was necessary to go far beyond training blacks for teaching posts. They would have to be invovled in the development of education and not only its teaching.

It was worse than criminal that there were white schools and teacher training colleges with under-utilised facilities.

Edgewood College (whose rector, Prof Al le Roux, has, with the colleges council and the Natal teachers society, called for it to be integrated) was one example of this.

Chief Buthelezi said the KwaZulu government had struggled with everything it had to provide the educational services which its people needed. But it had been impossible beacuse there simply was not the money to build enough clarssrooms, to buy books and pay enough teachers.

BBC Interview on Natal-KwaZulu Merger

MB120953 London BBC World Service in English 0709 GMT 12 Mar 86

[From the "24 hours" program]

[Text] In South Africa, a meeting has taken place between a senior Cabinet minister and delegates from both the province of Natal and the black homeland KwaZulu. The intention was to present proposals for a joint executive authority for the region, effectively a new multiracial authority to decide matters of mutal interest, including health, education, and job creation.

The KwaZulu delegation was led by Chief Buthelezi, a man who has often been criticized by militant black leaders for this apparent willingness to talk to the South African authorities.

[(Nick Worrall)] Asked Chief Buthelezi whether he considered the meeting a positive step.

[Begin recording] [Buthelezi] It's a very positive step because all of us are opposed to apartheid. We want a unified nation, we want a unified state, we want joint decisionmaking by all the people of this country. So, this is the first concrete step of the kind, because it will be the first time that whites and blacks exercise authority jointly.

[(Worrall)] Is this not simply an attempt by Mr Botha's government to drive a wedge between South Africa's blacks as opposed ...

[Buthelezi, interrupting] No [words indistinct] why does Mr Botha come in? It's not his initiative. Why do you bring in Mr Botha? This has nothing to do with Mr Botha. It is our idea, our idea in KwaZulu, and we approached the authorities in Natal especially after the Buthelezi commission. The Buthelezi commission was not Mr Botha's initiative and he dampened the spirit of the commission's recommendations.

[(Worrall)] And what sort of reactions have you had so far from the government?

[Buthelezi] Well, I... [changes thought] Mr Heunis, with whom we discussed the matter, is going to pass on this thing to the full Cabinet of South Africa and then we will hear from them. And then, of course, if they accept it, then there is a bill already which we handed over to him which can be enacted by them. They are making this joint executive authority possible.

[Worrall)] If it goes through, would you expect some sort of backlash from the ANC?

[Buthelezi] What backlash can they have?

[(Worrall)] Well, they would see it as an attempt to cooperate with the government...

[Buthelezi, interrupting] It's a lot of bullshit if they say so because it's nothing of the kind. They'll only be jealous because negotiation is succeeding. Because this has nothing to do with any fragmenting and (?shows) that the ANC'S reaction, which is along the lines of the question you put to me, is an attempt actually to make adverse propaganda against us when they know very, very well that this has nothing whatsoever to do with the government.

[(Worrall)] On a practical level, your homeland, KwaZulu, is separated into about 40 different little pieces of Natal, is it not? Does this arrangement help you to bring that together as more of a concrete state?

[Buthelezi] This is what is happening because what is KwaZulu and Natal is one region, in fact, and through this authority we should (?have) one region in fact, not two regions as the governemnt tried to do, because (?from) the government's point of view Natal is a separate region from KwaZulu and we have never accepted that. So, this is a way of bringing together what they separated through the ideology of apartheid.

[(Worrall)] Will what you are doing encourage, do you think, other black homeland leaders to try and involve themselves a little bit more in the mainstream of government as well?

[Buthelezi] Well, sir, I don't want to speak for them, but I have proposed that it might be a good thing and in a speech I gave at Melmoth I did speak that I hoped that in other regions of South Africa there is an idea that this kind of consultation which we had when we had the Buthelezi commission should also be started in various regions of South Africa. [end recording]

KwaZulu's Dhlomo Criticizes ANC Decision on Indaba

MB111214 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1146 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Cape Town, Mar 11, SAPA — The ANC's rejection of the "Indaba" called by Inkatha on a joint Legislative Authority (JLA) for Natal and Kwazulu was based on misinformation, the KwaZulu minister of education, Dr Oscar Dhlomo. Said today.

Speaking at a press conference after a meeting with the minister of constitutional development and planning, Mr Chris Heunis, on the establishment of a joint executive authority for the two regions, he said he had informed Mr Heunis "as a matter of courtesy" that the possibility of a JLA was being discussed.

Asked about the rejection by the ANC and AZAPO [Azanian People's Organisation] of the "Indaba," which is to take place on April 3, he said these organisations did not understand the purpose of the JLA.

They claimed it was an attempt to fragment the country, but in fact it was "directly the opposite."

It was an attempt to bring together, on a region basis, two authorities — KwaZulu and Natal.

The letter sent to organisations inviting them to the "Indaba" had specifically mentioned this fact.

Mabuza Calls for Inquiry Into Kabokweni Shootings

MB120907 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0853 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] Johannesburg, March 12, SAPA — The chief minister of Kangwane, Enos Mabuza, has called for an inquiry into an incident at the Kabokweni magistrates court yesterday in which a youth was shot dead and at least 13 people hospitalised.

Mr Mabuza said in a statement from Luieville that information received from "five independent sources" said hundreds of pupils had requested permission to be allowed to hear the proceedings at a trial of colleagues who had been arrested following unrest in the township on February 28.

"It is not clear what prompted one policeman to shoot whereafter the other policemen started shooting at random and one pupil was shot dead," the statement said.

It added that most of the pupils who were interviewed at the Themba Hospital had birdshot wounds on their backs.

"A full investigation into this tragic incident has been asked for," the statement said.

Police Concerned Over Imitation Firearms

MB110839 Johannesbrug SAPA in English 0834 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Pretoria, March 11, SAPA — Police are worried about the number of replica firearms that are being carried by the public following the death of a KwaZakhele man on Saturday who was allegedly carrying a replica of an AK-47 rifle.

The police public relations division in Pretoria said today that the man was killed by Port Elizabeth police after allegedly point the weapon at a policeman. Police warned the public that displaying imitation firearms, particularly ones of Russian origin, could have serious consequences for the carrier. Investigations into the Port Elizabeth shooting are continuing.

Police To Order Guguletu Funerals for Wednesday

MB110500 Johanensburg SAPA in English 2145 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Cape Town, March 10, SAPA — Members of the South African police have allegedly instructed family members of three of the seven alleged guerillas shot dead in Guguletu last Monday that their sons bodies hould be buried on Wednesday.

Sources close to the families, who asked not to be identified, said tonight: "Police went ot Mahlubi funeral services in NY37, No 1, Guguletu today and said the funeral services must be conducted on Wednesday.

"The undertaker was told that if the funerals did not take place on Wednesday the police would bury the bodies themselves," he said.

The allegations have been confirmed by independant sources not connected to the families.

The families and an ad hoc township committee were planning to bury the alleged guerrillas in Guguletu on Saturday at a mass funeral and intended seeking legal opinion on the alleged police interference.

The ad hock committee was meeting tonight in Guguletu to decide on a course of action.

Police have only released three of the seven bodies to the undertaker, family sources said tonight.

A police liaison officer for the western Cape, Captain Jan Calitz, said it was not possible tonight to comment on the allegations.

'Sporadic' Violence Continues in Clermont

MB120444 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2106 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Durban, March 11, SAPA — Sporadic Incidents of violence continued in Clermont, Durban, today and public transport and delivery vehicles were unable to enter the township.

The chairman of Pinetown and District Bottle Stores Owners Association, Mr Zazi Khuzwayo, said business had been "drasically disrupted" by stoning and looting a delivery vehicles.

Mr Richard Phiri, the chairman of the Pinetown branch of Inyanda Chamber of Commerce and Industry, who has called a special meeting to discuss the problems tomorrow, said if the unrest continued for much longer many businesses would be forced to close.

Police Issue Latest Unrest Situation Reports

Late 11 Mar

MB111751 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1744 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Pretoria, Mar 11, SAPA — Following is the SA Police 7pm unrest situation report:

"Incidents of unrest occurred at Dennilton and Mamelodi in the northern Transvaal; White River in the eastern Transvaal, where two people died and 81 were injured; Khutsong in the western Transvaal; and Tsakane on the East Rand.

"In the Kabokweni black residential area near White River, approximately 2000 blacks armed with sticks gathered outside the magistrates court, where 8 persons were appearing on charges arising from incidents of unrest which occurred on the 28th of February.

"The court can only accommodate 30 persons and the police therefore ordered the remainder of the mob to disperse. When they failed to obey this order tearsmoke was fired, which did not have the desired effect. Birdshot was then fired and a 15-year-old black male was fatally wounded and 30 more injured and admitted to hospital, where they are at present under guard.

"In a second incident police had to fire tearsmoke and then birdshot to disperse a group of about 200 blacks trying to hijack 7 buses. No injuries were reported.

"In a further incident a 14-year-old male was fatally wounded when the police dispersed a large group of stonethrowers who had already damaged private vehicles. No reports of injuries were received.

"Police also fired birdshot to disperse about 400 blacks who were intimidating scholars of the Kadisiki School. A 17-year-old black male was wounded and is at present under arrest in hospital.

"At Dennilton a black youth was wounded and arrested after medical treatment, when the police fired birdshot at blacks setting fire to private vehicles. In other acts of violence, blacks set fire to and caused extensive damage to a delivery vehicle and a school.

"At Mamelodi near Pretoria, blacks stoned and extensively damaged a delivery vehicle, while in a second incident a private vehicle was set alight.

"At Tsakane near Brakpan, a petrolbomb hurled by a small group of blacks ignited setting a house on fire and causing extensive damage.

"In Soweto the owner of a vehicle was robbed of his vehicle and in two other incidents two private vehicles were extensively damaged by arsonists.

"At New Brighton near Port Elizabeth, police fired birdshot to disperse a group of blacks stoning a truck. No injuries were reported."

Ends report.

Early 12 Mar

MB120629 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0623 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] Pretoria, March 12, SAPA — Here follows the unrest report up to 8am issued by the police public relations division in Pretoria.

"The following incidents of unrest were reported overnight:

"At Memelodi near Pretoria a beerhall was petrol-bombed, causing slight damage. A private dwelling and a delivery vehicle were destroyed when they were set alight.

"At Khutsong, near Oberholzer, the private houses of three policemen were extensively damaged when they were set on fire. The SAP dispersed mobs with tearsmoke when they gathered illigally on two occasions.

"An SAP vehicle was stoned. The SAP arrested three men when a vehicle was destroyed by fire.

"At Zwide, near Port Elizabeth, the SAP dispered a mob with shotgun fire when their vehicle was stoned. No injuries were reported.

"At KwaTema, near Springs, a private vehicle was set on fire and destroyed. The SAP used shotgun fire to disperse the mob Fourteen women were slightly wounded and 25 blacks were arrested. This includes the wounded.

"At the black residential area nea Aliwal North the Vulamazibuzer Primary School was extensively damaged by arsonists.

"At Guguletu in the Western Province, a bus and a police vehicle were stoned. In the latter incident the SAP dispersed the mob with tearsmoke.

"At Lawaaikamp near George, policemen busy with investigation duties were trapped by a mob. The mob stoned them and the SAP dispersed their attackers with teasmoke and shotgun fire. Three SAP vehicles were damaged and a policeman was injured.

"At Dennilton the SAP dispersed a mob with shotgun fire when a private vehicle was petrol-bombed. No injuries were reported."

Three Guguletu Residents Detained Under Security Act

MB111555 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1527 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Cape Town, March 11, SAPA — Three Guguletu residents, including a grandfather aged 64, have been detained under Section 29 of the Internal Security Act. People detained under Section 29 can be held incommunicado for six months.

Mr Donald Mxutu, 64, of NY151, Guguletu, was detained on February 28, according to his wife, Mrs Catherine Mxutu. Mrs Julie Gusha said her son, Mr Andile Wilfred Gusha, 23, was detained in Transkei in January. He is now being held in Cape Town. Mr Bongani Dunjana on NY137, Guguletu, was detained in February. Mr Mxutu, a former member of the PAC [Pan Africanist Congress], was detained for six months in 1960, according to his wife.

The Police Directorate of Public Relations confirmed today that the three were being held under Section 29 of the Internal Security Act.

Five Men Arrested in Attack on Policeman

MB110912 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0852 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Pretoria, March 11, SAPA — Five men have been arrested in a sequel to an attack on a young white policeman in Mamelodi, Pretoria, at the weekend. The policeman, Const J.D. Kruger, and another white officer were patrolling the township when a number of youths pelted their van with stones.

The two climbed out of their vehicle and approached the group, which fled. Const Kruger followed some of the youths who later assaulted him and robbed him of his service firearm.

A spokesman for the northern Transvaal CID [Criminal Investigations Division] confirmed today that five men had been arrested. The firearm had not yet been recovered. Const Kruger, in his early 20's, suffered head and facial injuries.

Langa Man Wounded By Police in Stoning

MB111812 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1807 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Cape Town, Mar 11, SAPA — A Langa man was wounded by police when in a clash with rioters in the western Cape township yesterday. A police spokesman said today the man was injured when a group of people stoned a police vehcile in Langa at 5:20 pm. Police used shotgun fire to disperse the crowd, and the man was hit in the leg. Earlier, 30 people threw a petrol bomb and stones at a private vehicle. The vehicle was seriously damaged, but police were not on the scene and no arrests were made.

Miners Restrained From Working Half Shifts

MB110729 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0729 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Johannsbrug, March 11, SAPA — Anglo American's Vaal Reefs gold mine was back in full operation today following a Supreme Court interdict restraining black mineworkers from working half shifts. All shafts, metallurgical works and engineering workships were operating this morning when black workers reported as usual for the morning shift.

Problems started at Vaal Reefs last Wednesday when black mineworkers walekd off the job after only four hours of their eight-hour shift. Up to 10,250 black mineworkers were involved in industrial action which threw mine work schedules into disarray. An Anglo spokesman said today that workers could make use of agreed procedures to bring any grievances of management's attention.

Fort Hare Work Force on Strike, Students Boycott

MB111538 Umtata Capital Radio in English
1500 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Negotiations are taking place at Fort Hare University over a work stoppage and student stayaway that has effectively shut down the university. Frans Kruger has details:

[Kruger] Fort Hare's estimated 1,500-strong work force has been on strike for 2 weeks now, while students have been on a sympathy boycott since last Wednesday. University Public Relations Officer Norman Holiday insisted today he had no idea what the workers grievances are. However, university sources have indicated they are demanding recognition of their association, as well as a wage increase. Holiday said negotiations with workers were going on at present, although he could not say how they are going.

Press Comments on Current Issues, Problems

MB110901 [Editorial Report]

Reaction to Business Bill

Johannesburg *THE STAR* in English of 10 March reports on page 4 that a Draft Temporary Removal of Restrictions of Economic Activites Bill that will give the "State President sweeping powers to overrule legislation and promote small businesses" has "shocked section of commerce, industry and labour." "The bill was condemned by Mrs Ruth Imrie, acting general secretary of the Trade Union Council of SA. Even bodies supporting the intentions of the bill were aghast at the extent of powers proposed." A legal adviser to the Association of Chambers Commerce (ASSOCOM) said, " 'We are taking the Government on trust on this one but we do not like enabling legislation which confers wide powers on ministers and bypasses the sovereignty of Parliament."

Organisation To Unify Right-Wing

A report on page 5 says that "Action White Natal, a newly-formed organization opposed to the amalgamation of KwaZulu and Natal proposed by senior members of the Provincial Council, yesterday claimed its aim was to 'work towards the goal of uniting right-wing parties.' " Phillip Schutte, executive secretary of the organization, said the group opposed amalgamation because " 'the vast majority of whites in Natal do not support this action and we will do everything to oppose it.' "

STAR on AWB in Police

The editorial on page 10 supports "General Johan Coetzee, the Commissioner of Police, in his decision to allow no member of the Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging [AWB] to join the police or police reserve. The AWB has deliberately cultivated a reputation for racial bigotry and a menacing willingness to take the law into its own hands that in itself should disqualify its members from elegibility for the forces of law and order."

Loans For Homelands

"Building societies that grant property loans in the self-governing homelands are to be given guarantees by the South African Government to protect them against changes that may occur after the territories gain independence," The *STAR* reports on page 14. "The Minister of Education and Development Aid, Dr Gerrit Viljoen, and the Minister of Finance, Mr Barend Du Plessis,said in a statement that the guarantees would cover loans 'for the purchase or improvement of fixed property.' "

Alexandra Official To Resign

Darky Rametse, former chairman of the Save Alexandra Party and a public relations officer with the Alexandra Town Council has told the *SOWETAN* he plans to resign from the council. A report on page 3 says Rametse had been living in Sandton with other councillors since 18 February, but has said: " 'I cannot subject myself to the imprisonment of staying outside Alexandra when I know the key to my freedom is quitting the council job.' " He said family and friends as well as youth groups in the township had urged him to resign.

Inquiry on Detainee Allegations Urged

An editorial on page 4 of the *SOWETAN* urges the opposition members of Parliament to demand an official inquiry into the allegations of torture and abuse made by ex-detainees following their release from prison. "If the government refuses, then we should not be blamed for having certain suspicions about the veracity or otherwise of the allegations." Under The Prisons Act it is "almost impossible for newspapers to report on anything that happens behind prison bars," it notes. The restrictions preclude giving "full publicity" to what the detainees said at their press conference last week, and it is time the law was changed because the "secrecy that is thrown on life behind bars is a grave indictment on the process of justice in South Africa."

Warmbaths Stayaway

Tamsyn van Gelderen reports on page 3 of Johannebsurg *THE CITIZEN* in English on 10 March that the Afrikaans Chamber of Commerce in Warmbaths has decided to take back black workers who returned to work on the 10th. However, one local businessman said he would not take back his black workers and added that 90 percent of Warmbaths businessmen felt the same way. He said that there was no way the workers would be taken back since " 'we've got to teach them a lesson. I'm doing more business than ever, have no problems, and my profitability is up by more than 60 percent since I have whites working for me.' "

Sharpeville Residents Reaffirm Demands

The paper also reports on the same page that "Sharpeville residents yesterday voted to continue to demand that house rentals and service charges be reduced." The acting chairman of the Sharpeville Civic Association said that the Lekoa Town Council has refused to negotiate.

Ciskei Minister on Escalating Violence

The paper reports on page 4 that the Ciskei minister of youth affairs, Rev V.G. Ntshinga, told a conference that youths were resorting to violence without considering " 'that they will be answered with violence.' " Ntshinga said each expression of violence " 'is accompanied by an escalation of the violence, Until such rage exists on the part of both parties. From this strife and bitterness comes a spirit of hopelessness and despair.' "

BCC Newsmen Stoned

Johannesburg *BUSINESS DAY* in English of 10 March reports on page 1 that two BBC-television employees "escaped with minor cuts and bruises" after driving "through a 200m gauntlet of stone-throwing children after being trapped at a barricade of drums and boulders in Duncan Village yesterday." "They had gone into Duncan Village to get video footage of residents' reaction to the East London Council decision in favour of opening residential area to all races."

Slovo Could Lead SACP

Ian Hobbs reports on page 3 that "Joe Slovo is believed to be a front-runner to lead the banned South African Communist Party following the death of its veteran general secretary, Moses Mabhida, 62, on Saturday." Hobbs said "Slovo is considered the most capable and radical leader," and is described as "South Africa's most wanted man."

School Boycott Discussions

Sophie Tema reports on page 5 that the SPCC and the newly-formed National Education Crisis Committee (NECC) met with the government at the weekend "in an attempt to end the schools boycott." "School fees, free stationery and democratically - elected SRC's were some of the items of the agenda."

'Tense' Economic Relations with Japan

David Furlonger reports on page 7 that "Japanese economic consul Takashi Shibuya admits his country's trade realtions with SA are 'tense.' " One of the reasons is that "one month after SA accorded Japan Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status last year, under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the Japanese Government announced limited economic sanctions against this country, "including the "export of computers which could help the SA police and armed forces," and the " 'voluntary stopping' of Krugerrand imports into Japan." Shibhuya said: " 'While we try to be co-operative with the forces challenging SA, we must also try to keep a balance.'"

Zulu-Pondo Hostility

Durban *ILANGA* in Zulu on 27 February - 1 March publishes a report on pages 4 and 5 by Cyril Madlala on the root causes of the Zulu-Pondo clashes. "The basic ingredients for the Zulu-Pondo clashes can be traced directly to an Inkatha [Zulu Cultural Movement] meeting addressed by Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi at KwaMashu, 6 years ago. At that meeting, a delegation of Pondos from Number 5 area of Ezimbokodweni asked Chief Buthlezi if they were eligible and welcome to join Inkatha. Chief Buthelezi replied in the affirmative, pointing out Inkatha's non-discriminatory provisions." "The Pondos, then joined Inkatha in unprescedented numbers, paying the requisite subscription fees. They expected full rights and privileges within the Inkatha. However, elements within the Inkatha hierarchy who felt very strongly about theer Zulu heritage, began to voice their fears that Inkatha was being swamped by a non-Zulu element. It was at this stage that the friction started between the two groups." Madlala adds: " 'What is required now is that Chief Buthelezi and his top Inkatha leadership give urgent priority to the resolution of this major problem within Inkatha," concludes the report.'

ZIMBABWE

Defense Ministry Hosts Reception for DPRK Officer

MB080845 Harare Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 8 Mar 86

[Text] The minister of defense yesterday held a very important persons party for Brigadier (Sin Hon-tok), leader of the military team from the DPRK. Brigadier (Sin) has completed a 5-year term in Zimbabawe, during which he has seen trained the presidential guard, the militia force, and five brigades. The permanent secretary in the Ministry of Defense, Comrade James Chitaure, praised the DPRK's military team for a job well done.

In reply Brigadier (Sin) said he has always enjoyed the warm friendship of Zimbabweans during his stay in the country. He thanked Zimbabwe for its support for the reunification of the Korean peninsula.

Former Army Officer, ZAPU MP Released From Prison

MB120527 Harare Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] The former deputy army commander, Lookout Masuku, and a former ZAPU member of parliament, Vote Moyo, have been released from detention. According to the minister of home affairs, Comrade Enos Nkala, the two were released on the advice of the Security Ministry. Lookout Masuku was arrested 4 years ago in connection with the discovery of arms caches on the then ZAPU-owned farm and Vote Moyo was arrested and detained on a different charge in 1983.